

HISTORY  
OF  
THE CARPENTERS  
OF  
"FORT CARPENTER"  
1746 - 1849

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HISTORY<sup>c</sup>  
of  
THE CARPENTERS  
of  
“FORT CARPENTER”

1746-1949

BY  
MARY EVELYN HARLOW CARPENTER  
WIFE OF JOSEPH H. CARPENTER



1233652

DEDICATED TO MY HUSBAND  
JOSEPH H. CARPENTER  
AND  
"FORT CARPENTER"

\$6.00

Carpenter

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# Introduction

IT is with reluctance that I attempt to set forth in a clear and simple way the things that befell the Carpenter forefathers, beginning in those far-away pioneer days and ending in the days that now are. I am reluctant because of my desire to be accurate and because of the sparcity of "honest-to-goodness" data.

It is not in a spirit of family pride, nor are we like the "Heathern Chinese," who devoutly worship their ancestors, that this history is recorded; but it is written simply to preserve for our generation and those who may come hereafter, a knowledge of the place their family occupied in the early period of our Nation's history.

In gathering material for this preamble I have been reminded by friends, in a poetic vein, to be careful!

"Depend upon it my snobbish friend,  
Your family thread you can't ascend  
Without due reason to apprehend,  
You will find it waxed at the further end  
By some plebeian vocation—  
Or worse than that your boasted line  
May end in a loop of stronger twine  
That plagued some worthy relation."

Another friend expressed the same thought in fewer words, but with the same meaning—"If your family rope you would ascend, be careful that you do not find your grandfather's neck at the other end."

This is not a "Family Tree," for trees have many limbs, and this has not. The task of locating authentic facts would have been too great, so I have confined myself to the "Trunk," as the foundation, with very few branches and twigs shooting out from the main body.

It might not be becoming to speak in terms of praise of our own, but, if it were not for these qualities that our antecedents possessed, we would not care to preserve the record.



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## CHAPTER I

# The Name and Family of Carpenter

FROM the Media Research Bureau in Washington, D. C., we learn that the name Carpenter is also spelled Carpentier and in some records De Carpentier; we also find many names similar to our more modern ones, which help verify our claim to this particular line of Carpenter as our forebears—such names as Hannah, Rebecca, Margaret, Martha, Elizabeth, Mary and Abigail among the names of women and then William, Solomon, John, Joseph, George, Samuel, Benjamin and David among the names of men.

From the Media Research we also find the history of one John Carpenter who lived in the County of Hereford in 1303. He was a member of Parliament in 1323 for the Borough of Leskard, in Cornwall, and two years later a Samuel Carpenter held the same office in the County of Devon.

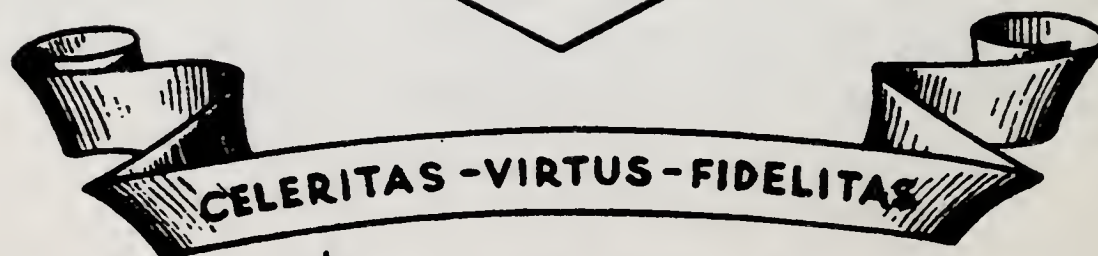
Another member of the family in Great Britain was John Carpenter, of the English branch, Town Clerk of London in 1442. From this line are also descended many American families of the name.

Another William Carpenter, a descendant of the Irish line which located at Weymouth, Massachusetts, in 1638, had four children, Samuel, Joseph, John and William whose wife was Abigail.

Samuel, son of the immigrant Samuel, married Hannah Preston, and five children were born to this union, Samuel, Rachel, Preston, Hannah and Thomas.

Others of the name Carpenter, who emigrated to America at an early date, were John, Philip and Thomas of Boston, Massachusetts.

The descendants of all of these families of Carpenters in America have spread to every State of the Union, and have aided as much in the development of the Nation as their ancestors did in its founding. This family in America has been characterized by courage, strength of character, and leadership in Civic and Religious pursuits.



Carpenter

CARPENTER COAT OF ARMS



## CHAPTER II

# The Carpenter Coat of Arms

WE have now reached a very interesting part of this narrative dealing with the family Crest and Coat of Arms. These were sent from Sussex in England to John Carpenter, son of Samuel, "the immigrant," who was then of Boston, Massachusetts.

The cut for this picture is taken from a photostat of one in silver and black. Silver denotes sincerity and peace. The Greyhound used on the Coat of Arms, carried with it a definite significance, as contained in the Motto—*Celeritas, Virtus, Fidelitas*—meaning Speed, Courage, Fidelity.

The Greyhound was chosen since it was supposed to be the embodiment of speed, courage and fidelity. The shield represents that the owner held the office of Squire and was termed a gentleman.

This was granted to William Carpenter, Esquire, of Cobham in Surrey, England—Gentleman of His Majesty's Honorable Privy Chamber, Extraordinary, by Sir Edward Bysne, March 4, 1663, as shown by the records of the Herald's College, London 1663, afterwards found on the tombstone of Daniel Carpenter, of *Rehoboth, Massachusetts*, who was born in 1669.

At the time this Coat of Arms was granted to William Carpenter, he was the King's messenger—(It was a Nobleman's office of honor) thus the Greyhound was chosen as symbolic of the service. This Coat of Arms is found in church windows in the counties of Surrey and Sussex in England.

### CHAPTER III

## The Virginia Branch of the Carpenter Family

THE earliest record available begins with the coming of three Carpenter brothers from New York to the "Big Bend" of Jackson River in the spring of 1746. These men were of Scotch-Irish descent, a bad combination as I have been told, for the Scotch strain makes a man "frugal to excess" or tight in his spending, and the Irish strain produces a recklessly profuse spender. In other words, the Irish impulse would cause a man to buy a fine hat; his Scotch characteristic would keep him from enjoying his purchase. But, I believe, these two traits would be a check on each other and thus produce a well-balanced personality.

The three brothers, who came to Virginia to take up land and make homes, were Joseph Carpenter, Sr., Solomon Carpenter, and Zopher Carpenter. There were other Carpenters of this family who may have been brothers, for we have a sketch of one Nicholas Carpenter who was killed by the Indians in 1750. He had a grant of 950 acres at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. He was the husband of Kate Carpenter, whose history will be taken up later.

There was also Jeremiah Carpenter, Grandfather of William Carpenter or "Squirrelie Bill" in Braxton County, West Virginia.

Joseph Carpenter, Sr., from whom we are descended, came to Alleghany County in the spring of 1746, ahead of his family and cleared some land preparatory to making a permanent home in "the land of the free."

He took a survey of 782 acres and on June 1, 1750, he obtained a patent or grant for this land from King George III of "Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the faith."

Joseph, being of a provident mind, planted a crop and went north for his family. When he returned, he found that hungry buffalo had broken through his insecure fence and destroyed the crop, so instead of "corn pone," buffalo steak was on the bill-of-fare that winter.

When Joseph Carpenter, with his family, returned from New York, Peter Wright came with him and obtained a grant for the entire site of Covington, Virginia. In 1792, Peter Wright divided his land between his sons, John and William, who afterwards sold their holdings,



and moved West to the vicinity of Indianapolis, Indiana. Their property was bought by George Sively for \$500.00 in cash, a wagon and two horses, and a barrel of whiskey! A high estimate of the value of Covington!

Joseph Carpenter, Sr., built his first cabin in the bottom land on the south side of "The Bend" below Covington, Virginia. High water forced him to move to higher ground, near the place where the old barn stood. A greater flood sent him to the hill, known for years as "Cedar Hill," but now the home of Joseph H. Carpenter (1949), who has given the home site the more appropriate name of Fort Carpenter.

Old papers on file in the Court House at Fincastle, Botetourt County, Virginia, state that the Carpenter pioneers of this region erected a Stockade—Fort as a place of refuge during Indian attacks.

There were so many Carpenters among these early settlers that it's a bit confusing to distinguish the children from the grandchildren, but we are sure of this—the original Joseph Carpenter established himself at Fort Carpenter, where many Arrowheads and stone implements are still being found, showing that a flint quarry or an Indian Village stood there.

Solomon Carpenter, brother of Joseph Carpenter, settled at Low Moor, at the place later known as the Frank Karnes place. There he built a Stockade-Fort to defend himself and his family from the Indians.

Zopher Carpenter, the third brother lived south of Mallow below the Holloway Ford. He was married, but his wife's name is not known. Their daughter Elizabeth married David Glassburn (1778). There is a deed recorded in Fincastle, Virginia, in 1789, made by Zopher Carpenter and wife, Mary Carpenter, and David Glassburn, and Elizabeth Carpenter Glassburn, his wife, to Michael Mallow for 130 acres of land, on the north side of Jackson's River, for 275 pounds.



## CHAPTER IV

# “Indian Stories As Heard By a Little Boy”

ON cold, bleak, snowy evenings it was the delight of “the little boy” to gather with the family around the big, crackling log fire and to listen to the stories from the lips of his Uncles, his Father, and Grandfather of the Pioneer Days of his Forefathers.

They were stories so true and so real that the nerves of the boy tingled; they were enough to chill his spine and make his very hair stand on end. The elders recounted stories of true, soul-stirring experiences that tried men’s souls, and, when bedtime came it was with fear that “the little boy” left the family group, for tales had been told of real Indians and their raids, of the capture of the women and children of the settlements, of the slaying of the men, and of the leaving of burning cabins, and destroyed food stores behind. But why summarize, when the detailed facts can be given in the order that they happened?

One interesting and true story is about Solomon Carpenter the son of Solomon Carpenter the elder, who was the brother of Joseph and Zopher Carpenter, who were the first permanent settlers of any land in Virginia, west of the Cow Pasture River. This story is told by Colonel George Skillern, whose plantation was about two miles north of Buchanan, Virginia, and it is told of Solomon Carpenter and his “Outlaw Band.”

About the year 1754 the family of Solomon Carpenter, Sr., was living in a log cabin somewhere in the wilds of Virginia, along the frontier, near a creek in Botetourt County. Some of the children were playing about the cabin, some were working with older members of the family in the fields, others were roaming about through the woods, Solomon, Jr., was one of these.

Solomon was about ten years old and was a sturdy child and bold. Indians captured him and took him away, adopted him into their tribe, and raised him as an Indian. Years after he returned a grown man, strong and active, wild and untamed in spirit, and, as we shall see later in this narrative, he had many characteristics of the savage. He was well versed in all the lore of woodcraft and was a fierce undisciplined child of the forest.

Then followed the Revolutionary War and recruits were being enlisted. Captain Lapsley, a recruiting officer who lived about two miles southwest of Lexington, Virginia, enlisted Solomon Carpenter, his



brother Amos, and James Lyons. The three formed a brave team; they were fine specimens of the frontier fighter. Captain Lapsley enlisted them with the understanding that they should have three and one half shillings a day, as members of General Washington's body-guard. This was higher pay than other soldiers received, and besides they had the honor of being assigned as defenders of General Washington. However, when they arrived at headquarters, they found that this agreement was not to be kept but that they were to be put in the line as ordinary privates, with no special assignments and no better pay than those in the ranks.

They resented this treatment, as their savage nature prompted, and as a result they walked away quietly, and getting away from their officers, came home and hid in the mountains. From time to time other dissenters (or malcontents) joined them. Solomon Carpenter was a daring, active leader, and he had forty or fifty men in his band, well armed with knives and guns. They had friends and relatives who kept in touch with them and contributed to their support.

For four years, this band of straight-shooting backwoods outlaws lived and eluded every attempt of the Botetourt authorities "to bring them in." They were more than a match for the forces of law and order, and they and their friends felt that their cause, or grievance, was just.

After four years of unsuccessful effort to break up the band, Colonel Skillern persuaded Solomon and some of his officers, among them James Lyons, to come to his house under a flag of truce to talk things over. Solomon Carpenter and his men were willing to fight for their country if they were given a fair break. They offered to serve two years in the Botetourt County Militia, or they were willing to enlist under George Rogers Clark.

Colonel Skillern recommended that the Governor accept their offer, realizing that forty or fifty hardened scouts would be a welcome addition to the Patriot forces. If their offer had not have been accepted, they could, and possibly would have, given more trouble. So the bold, courageous and fearless Solomon Carpenter, who was captured and reared by the Indians, and who came back to his people in Botetourt County, held up the whole county and state government for four years, until he got for himself and his comrades the consideration he thought was due them. In the mind of the writer he deserves more praise than censure for his banditry, if it could be so-called. Solomon Carpenter married Lucretia Prentice, daughter of Daniel Prentice.



## CHAPTER V

# How Kate's Mountain Got Its Name

**A**NOTHER Indian story is related of one, Nicholas Carpenter, (who was either a younger brother or a nephew of Joseph, Solomon and Zopher Carpenter). About 1750 a patent or grant of 950 acres of land was secured from King George III of England by the said Nicholas Carpenter at White Sulphur Springs, Virginia, (now West Virginia)—170 acres of this land constitutes The Greenbrier Airport there. This Airport occupies historical ground, dating back to the time when all the territory now embraced by the County of Greenbrier was a part of Augusta County, Virginia.

Nicholas Carpenter made his home in a cabin near the famous Spring. This was a dangerous location as the Indians had known of the healing properties of the Springs and they often resorted there for the water. They also claimed this region for a hunting ground, and they resented the idea of the white family locating on their territory. Shortly after establishing his home there, Nicholas became uneasy when warning was given of raids by the Shawnee Indians. Nicholas left with the older children for Fort Carpenter, at the Bend of Jackson's River, thirty-two or thirty-three miles away. He left his wife, Kate Carpenter and a small child (Frances), expecting to come back for them, but this he did not do, for in helping in the defense of Fort Carpenter he became a victim of the Indians. When he did not come back Mrs. Carpenter (Kate) became alarmed, and with her baby in her arms, took refuge on a high mountain which bears her name, "Kate's Mountain." She concealed herself there 'til all trace of the Indians disappeared, then she with her child, made her way through the mountains to Staunton, where she told her sad story.

It is not known what became of the children who came with their father, Nicholas, to the Fort near Covington, but it is thought by writers that they were slain by Indians in the raid of 1750. Frances the baby, who escaped with Kate, grew to womanhood in Staunton, and there in 1766 married Captain Michael Bowyer. Most historians fix the time of the raid as 1750 or perhaps earlier, as Frances was married in 1766. The marriage certificate of Captain Bowyer and Frances Carpenter is now preserved at Williamsburg, Virginia. It is not known whether or not Frances (Carpenter) Bowyer ever came back to her childhood home in Greenbrier County. Her death took place in 1784, and that same year we find a record of Michael Bowyer receiving a title to 950 acres

of land in Greenbrier, as husband of Frances Carpenter Bowyer, the heiress at law of Nicholas Carpenter deceased.

Captain Bowyer built his home on what is now the Airport, and it was he who put the first improvements on "The Sulphur Springs," as it was called. He died in 1809 and that year the real estate was divided among his heirs. The Airport tract went to Mrs. William Bedford, who was Fanny Bowyer and she gave the name of "Briarfield" to the place. Colonel Joel McPherson, who for many years was Circuit Clerk of Greenbrier County, owned Briarfield and died there in 1888.

In 1894, Honorable A. E. Huddleston bought the place and changed the name to "Belle Plain." In 1905 it again changed hands, this time bought by Mr. and Mrs. Thornton Lewis, who called it "The Meadows," by which name it went until 1929, the year in which the White Sulphur Springs Company bought it and converted it into one of the finest landing fields in West Virginia.



## “History of the Carpenters in the Life and Exploits of Jesse Hughes”

IT is thought that Jesse Hughes' birthplace was in Alleghany County, Virginia, on Jackson's River. One of Jesse Hughes' descendants in trying to describe his home, said it was near the Greenbrier County line on a farm that had a large river bottom and the person who made this statement said he had frequently passed by this place of Jesse's birth in going to and from the Jackson's River section. There is a little valley leading from the river toward the top of the Alleghany Mountains and a road leading across this way, which no doubt was used by the early settlers as a thoroughfare in crossing the mountains. This valley is called Hughes' Draft. For whom this valley was named we do not know, but most probably for Jesse Hughes. Associated with Jesse Hughes was “Mad Anne” Bailey; though she was not connected with the History of the Carpenters, this story of her exploits fits in with those days of primitive living, in our old Virginia.

“Mad Anne” Bailey, one of the most original patriots of the early days, and one of the boldest, was of Welsh parentage born in Liverpool, England in 1742, otherwise her early life is obscure.

She came to Staunton, Virginia as a young girl in her teens (her maiden name was Dennis). For some years she lived as a domestic, in the home of the Bell family near Fort Defiance, Virginia.

At the age of twenty-three she married a Staunton boy by the name of James Richard Trotter, they had set-up housekeeping and were prepared to live an ordinary, normal life together. About this time the French and Indians went on a rampage which involved all the western frontier and James joined the Augusta men, who formed a Company and hurried to Point Pleasant, Virginia then, but West Virginia now, there he helped to protect the forts. However, they were outnumbered and the Virginians had a hard time, many soldiers from Augusta County lost his life, among this number was James Trotter.

Anne's grief knew no bounds and she was filled with the desire for revenge. The son who had been born to them, she left in the care of a friend, near Falling Spring, Virginia, Mrs. Moses Mann, by name. Anne then put on male apparel and on her black stallion, “Liverpool” by name, and with a few provisions, she rode into the mountain wilderness. There she lived a life of such wild adventure that people called her “Mad Anne.” She attended all the military exercises of her day, training herself and others against the British on one side and the Indians on the other. She was brave and knew no fear where her enemies were concerned. If she met an Indian separated from his tribe, she immediately killed him and took his scalp for a souvenir.



An interesting story is told of the saving of Fort Lee, an outpost that stood near the present site of Charleston, W. Va. The commanding officer asked for a volunteer to go to Fort Union, now Lewisburg, W. Va., for a supply of powder, not a man responded, but Anne knowing she was running into danger, facing almost certain death offered to go herself. She started in the darkness of night astride her big black horse, quietly the stockade door opened just enough to allow her to pass through. She made the trip of more than a hundred miles safely, stopping at Lewisburg just long enough to laden her horse with the precious powder and to secure extra forces, through whose help the Fort was saved, and as has been said, "Once more the frontiersmen felt their scalps safe on their heads!" "Mad Anne" spent the last days of her life in a rude hut, built by her own hands, on the farm of her son.

She died on November 25th, 1825. The Daughters of the American Revolution erected a bronze tablet to her memory in Falling Spring Valley.

It is stated in a sketch of Jesse Hughes' life, written by Mr. L. V. McWhorter, who is the author of "The Border Settlements of Northwestern Virginia," that Jesse Hughes killed two Indians on one occasion in Northwestern Virginia. These were the same Indians who had murdered Benjamin Carpenter and his family on Elk River. The Carpenters were acquaintances and friends of Jesse Hughes.

"The Carpenter family, that was murdered by the Indians, was born and raised in the Big Bend of Jackson's River, which is just below Covington, Virginia." It would seem very probable that Jesse Hughes and the Carpenters were acquainted before they moved from Alleghany County, as the place where Benjamin Carpenter was born and raised is only about eight or nine miles from the place where Jesse Hughes is supposed to have been born.

The late Andrew Price of Marlinton, West Virginia, Editor of *The Pocahontas Times*, furnished me with some of the facts of the troubles of the Carpenters on Elk River in West Virginia. William Carpenter, son of the pioneer Joseph Carpenter was commander of the Stockade-Fort at Fort Carpenter, and was waylaid and scalped in an attack by fifty Delaware and Mingo Indians, before he could reach the shelter of the Fort. (This information was found in the State Library in Richmond, Virginia. This took place the middle of September, 1750, and in the raid nine persons were killed, including Nicholas Carpenter, also Stephen Sewell, James Mayse, James Montgomery, Nicholas Nutt, John Byrd, George Kincaid, a Mr. Boyle and a Mr. Fry.)

This happened between the present (1949) home of Joseph H. Carpenter and Jackson's River. In this raid by the Indians, Nicholas



Carpenter, husband of Kate Carpenter of White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, was slain, and a number of prisoners were taken, one being Jeremiah Carpenter a boy of the age of nine, afterwards referred to as "Doctor Carpenter" of Nicholas County, West Virginia. That County was formed in 1818 and Braxton County was not formed till 1836.

After Jeremiah Carpenter was captured by the Indians, he remained with them for nine years in a village called Oldtown, west of the Ohio River. It is probable that his knowledge of medicine came from the Indians. When he returned from captivity, the old settled country at the mouth of Jackson's River was too tame for him and he went into the wilderness of what is now Central West Virginia; there he built a home on Elk River, about 12 miles from Sutton, West Virginia. This must have been shortly after the Revolutionary War. A brother by the name of Ben Carpenter settled at the mouth of Holly Creek, below Jeremiah. A little later Adam O'Brien settled on Elk River where the town of Sutton is located. The "old-timers" blamed O'Brien for the Indian raids into this section, saying that he did not conceal his trails, but openly blazed trees to indicate paths. This, coupled with the fact that in 1772 a village of Indians settled at Bulltown on the waters of the little Kanawha, in the neighborhood of Burnsville in Braxton County, had been exterminated by the white people, must have made this region dangerous, if it is true that Indians will have their revenge.

In the fall of 1791, Adam O'Brien taking inventory of his farm and supplies to see if he had raised enough corn upon which to winter, decided it was a case in which he did not dare go into the winter, so he took his foot in his hand and travelled out of the settlements, leaving all kinds of signs to toll the Indians into Elk River. O'Brien must have been an irresponsible sort of an Irishman, for it is said that his reason for leaving the old part of Virginia was that it was against the law to kill a constable, and his proud Irish spirit could not stand for that!

In the spring of 1792, two Indians known as "Big Indian" and "Little Indian" followed O'Brien's blazes into the clearing that he had made that stood where Sutton roars today. There they saw chips of wood floating in the water from the Carpenter settlement up the river, and they proceeded up the stream with murder in their hearts. A week or so before this Ben Carpenter had killed a large buck with a coat as red as if it were summer time. It was in March and no one ever saw a deer before with a red coat that early in the spring. The pioneer believed in signs and omens, and Dr. Jeremiah read the sign. Ordinarily a deer's hide does not get red before the month of June, and he said that it meant something awful would befall them. Ben said that he expected to wear moccasins made out of that deer hide and he put it to soak in the river.



The day that the two Indians reached the mouth of Holly all of the Carpenters, except Ben's wife, went across Elk River to clear some land and worked there all morning. Just before noon Ben decided to go home and help with the dinner, and, as he passed the place where the hide of the red buck lay in soak, he took it out and worked on it. While he was so engaged, the "Little Indian," who was concealed behind a log, fired upon Ben but missed him. In the meantime the "Big Indian" had entered the cabin and silently tomahawked Ben's wife. When Ben was fired upon by the "Little Indian," he ran to his cabin to get his gun, and as he opened the door the "Big Indian" fired upon him, and he fell dead.

Meanwhile in the field Mrs. Jeremiah Carpenter had been alarmed by the sound of the first shot, and was looking toward the cabin, and saw the flash of the gun that killed Ben Carpenter. She had a small daughter with her, and she placed the child in a large hollow stump and put a flat rock over the top of it, telling the child to remain perfectly still. She then started to the cabin accompanied by her husband, Dr. Jeremiah Carpenter. They found it burned and plundered, the younger brother and sister-in-law dead, and the Indians gone.

In the Clarksburg neighborhood, that is on the West Fork, there lived at that time a man by the name of Jesse Hughes, who ranked as a Scout and Indian fighter, with Kenton and Boone. He was afflicted with the mania for killing Indians. Some historians have regarded this as a sort of insanity, resulting from the sight of the mutilated remains of victims of the Indians. In the same year that the Carpenters were killed, Hughes had a cow which ranged with a bell on her neck, and the cow disappeared. Hughes declared that it had been killed by the Indians. One evening at sundown, the bell was heard in the woods. A neighbor called his attention to it and said, "There is your cow." Hughes replied, "My cow is dead, but I will make that bell ring in the morning." That night he painted his face and hands, dressed like an Indian, and took his position at the head of the little hollow where he had heard the ring the night before. Just at daybreak he heard the bell and looked and saw the "Big Indian" with a gun in position to shoot, and the "Little Indian" with the bell on his neck, on all fours, making the bell ring as though it were a cow feeding.

Hughes shot the "Big Indian" and killed him, and the "Little Indian" ran. Hughes seized the "Big Indian's" gun and pursued the "Little Indian" and killed him also. Then he saw that the gun the "Big Indian" had been carrying was the gun of his deceased friend, Ben Carpenter. This so enraged him that he took strips of skin from the backs of the two Indians and tanned them into leather, out of which he made a shot pouch and belt, which he afterwards wore.



## CHAPTER VII

### “Dr. Jeremiah Carpenter”

**D**R. JEREMIAH CARPENTER was the father of Saul Carpenter, and Saul Carpenter was the father of William Carpenter, and it was the death of William Carpenter that brought forth this sketch. First we will deal with William Carpenter's grandfather, Jeremiah Carpenter. On one occasion he became alarmed over reports of Indians being in his vicinity and he and his family refugeed up Elk River to Laurel Creek, and up this Creek to Camp Run, wading in the water all the way. They entered a large cave and lived there until the danger was over, and during that time Saul Carpenter, William's father, was born. While they were there, an Indian actually entered the cave but failed to discover them.

It might be said that the death of William Carpenter, at the age of ninety-four, was one of the last links that connect today with Pioneer times. He was affectionately called “Squirrelie Bill,” because of his love for the hunting field. He associated with persons actually engaged in the heroic work of “Winning the West.” He was a child when Jesse Hughes died and must have had first-hand information of what that brave Indian fighter had done. It is said of Jesse Hughes that, when he became very old and childish, he imagined that the Indians were near, that he would take his gun and wander in the mountains in search of them, and in the woods he died, in his eightieth year, with his rifle in his hand in pursuit of imaginary foes.

William Carpenter was a great hunter and he too spent many of his last days with his gun on his shoulder in the woods. Andrew Price, of Marlinton, closed a short obituary of him with these words, characteristic of Mr. Price, “The red gods of the woods were very kind to “Squirrelie Bill Carpenter,” and gave him ninety-four years of happiness, and may the earth rest lightly on his bones.”

It has been said that the Carpenters were great “Indian fighters,” which is a grave mistake; they never sought a fight with the Indians, but they were heroic “Defenders of the Frontier.” The warfare with the Indians is a dark blot on American History. With the true Indian stories behind us we will continue the Carpenter narrative.



## CHAPTER VIII

# Joseph Carpenter, the Pioneer - (1746)

LITTLE is known of the domestic life of Joseph Carpenter I. The name of his wife does not appear in any available records. Evidently he was married before coming to Virginia to make his home.

In *Chalkley's Chronicles*, Vol. III, Page 24, we find an account of the second marriage of Joseph Carpenter to Judith, widow of John Scott, in 1753, and of his being appointed guardian to James, Benjamin and John Scott, orphans of John Scott.

Joseph Carpenter had a family of four (known) sons, Thomas, Joseph, Jr., William and Samuel, Sr. William was killed by the Delaware and Mingo Indians at Fort Carpenter, as was also Nicholas Carpenter, of White Sulphur Springs, Virginia. This is verified by records found in the State Library, Richmond, Virginia.

Samuel Carpenter, Senior, was the progenitor of the line through which the present Carpenters (1949) came.

Other children of Joseph Carpenter were 1—Frances, wife of John Mann; 2—Hannah, wife of Jeremiah Seeley. In March, 1764, there is recorded in *Chalkley's History*, Vol. I, Page 339, the marriage of Hannah, daughter of Joseph Carpenter, to Jeremiah Seeley, lately of the Province of New York. Also there is recorded a suit, or "cause" by Seeley vs. his father-in-law, Joseph Carpenter; 3rd daughter, Abigail, wife of Patrick Milhollen, Commissioner of the Revenue in 1825; 4th daughter, Mary, wife of a Mr. Viers; 5th daughter, Sarah, wife of William Gillispie; and 6th daughter, Martha, wife of a Mr. Shaver.

Samuel Carpenter, Sr., born July 26, 1771, died December 9, 1842, married Mary Persinger, born August 29, 1779, died July 3, 1840. This marriage is recorded in Fincastle, Botetourt County, Virginia—married by Daniel Prentice. Samuel Carpenter, Sr., was the only surviving son of Joseph Carpenter, Sr., the original settler of "Fort Carpenter," (according to the records). Samuel Carpenter, Senior's will was written in Alleghany County, March 4, 1842, about eight months prior to his death. Mary Persinger Carpenter, his wife, was the daughter of Jacob Persinger and his wife, Mary Kimberlin, about whom little is known except in a short sketch of her life, which fell into the writer's hands. It is stated that "she was an estimable lady."



## Jacob Persinger

JACOB PERSINGER, the father of Mary (Persinger) Carpenter, was born in Southern Pennsylvania, January 19, 1749, died July 3, 1840. When a small boy he was stolen by the Shawnee Indians and was kept by them until 1763-64, when he was exchanged under the terms of the Treaty of Paris. He was claimed by a family named Persinger, who had lost a son under similar circumstances. Jacob Persinger was never satisfied with his adoption by the Persinger family, and never ceased trying to find his own people, whose name he remembered was Godfrey. He remembered that he was playing in his father's mill when stolen, and that he was about five or six years of age. He also remembered that he was bitten by a snake and bore the scar on his leg.

With these clues, he finally learned of a family, by the name of Godfrey, who lived in Southern Pennsylvania at the time he was stolen. He went there but all the family, years before, had gone west. He learned that Godfrey had a mill and his small son, while in the mill, was stolen by Indians, and that this boy was bitten by a snake and bore the scar. He also learned that the Godfrey family grew tall, well over six feet, and he himself stood six feet four inches. All of this made him believe he was the Godfrey boy. He found a Godfrey registry of a son's birth, January 19, 1749, which date he adopted as his own birth date.

On September 26, 1775, he enlisted in Botetourt County, Virginia (now Alleghany Co.), and served in Matthew Arbuckle's Company, Major Newell's Regiment, Virginia Militia, and served until November 11, 1776, as Corporal and Scout. Major Newell's Regiment was a part of General Lewis' Army. While in the service, Jacob Persinger fought the English and Indians in the battle of Point Pleasant. For this service he was pensioned November 18, 1833. (His will was dated July 3, 1840, and was probated at the May term of Court 1841, in Washington, D. C.) While there may be a bit of repetition of the facts just recorded in a speech, made by Alexander Persinger, son of Jacob Persinger, it will verify what has been written, and give a deeper meaning to this tragic story of Jacob Persinger's life, coming as it does from the lips of his son.

An address of Alexander Persinger draws more light on the life of Jacob Persinger.

Alexander Persinger, a former Justice of the Boone County Court, asked permission of the Court to deliver an address to said Court and his friends and fellow citizens, which was granted him and which he proceeded to do, whereupon at the close of said address, on motion of Francis T. Russell, esquire, the Court requested a copy of said address



for the purpose of having the same spread on the journal of the Court and ordered that the Clerk of this Court put the same to record and also that he permit the Editor of the *Missouri Statesman* to have a copy of the same for publication. And the address being delivered to the Clerk of this Court is in words and figures, to-wit:

Fellow Citizens: It is not uncommon, when speakers rise to address an audience, no difference what the occasion may be, for them first of all to say that they have been solicited by numerous friends to speak. This is too much hackneyed for a modern apology. I have no excuse or apology to make. The main object I have in view in rising at this time is to take leave of my Associates on the Bench and thus publicly to make my grateful acknowledgment to my fellow citizens for the steadfast and continuous support with which they have complimented me ever since I have been a citizen of the County. I think I can say with some propriety that few public men have had more steadfast friends or more confiding constituents than I have. Another object I have in view is to assure you that other and higher considerations, than the compensation allowed by law, have induced me to continue in office the length of time I have, now about thirty-five years.

I hope I will not tax your time and patience too much in briefly stating in this connection the circumstances surrounding my father in early life—some of them quite singular—that you may see thereby that he could not have accumulated sufficient property, after educating a large family, to afford much assistance to his children. During the war on this continent between the English and French, commonly known as Braddock's War, he was taken prisoner by the Shawnee Indians. He was then about six years old, and so small that he could not ride on horseback, hence they tied him on their pack horses and carried him to Fort Duquense, which stood upon the present site of the City of Pittsburgh, and which was then in the possession of the French. Thence they carried him to Chilicothe on the Sciota River, now in the State of Ohio, and which was then the principal town of the Shawnees.

This account of his captivity was obtained from him after his return at the close of the war; for no relation knew or claimed him, and a man by the name of Persinger residing in the western part of Virginia took him into his family from the Indians, and adopted him. He was then about ten years old. He remained with his adopted father, Persinger, until he was able to provide for himself; was known by his name, and from this circumstance, originated the family of Persingers of which I am one.

Soon after my father was grown, the Revolutionary War came on, and being much disturbed in mind in consequence of not knowing or



finding his genuine kinsman, he entered the army and was engaged in guarding the western frontiers of Virginia till peace was made.

You who are conversant with the history of the Revolution, need not be told that the Continental Congress created a paper currency, designated Continental money, to enable the Government to carry on the war. Every person who furnished anything to support the government, the officers and soldiers, had to receive for their compensation, this money. Before and after the conclusion of the war, this currency depreciated in value until it came down to one dollar for a thousand. So you see the condition in which our Revolutionary fathers were left at the end of the war.

Now as to myself: before I came to Boone County, I made my first settlement in Montgomery County in 1820. In the spring of 1824, the citizens prevailed on me to become a candidate for a seat in the lower branch of the Legislature, it being the first revising session under the Constitution. I was elected. During that session, the law was passed creating Probate Courts throughout the State. As soon as the passage of that law was known, recommendations were received by the Representatives of the different Counties for appointments to fill said offices. These were filled by the Governor. I received a letter from the Clerk of the County Court of Montgomery County, and another from a particular friend, requesting me to use my influence with the Governor, Frederick Bates, to obtain the office for him, which I did, and the Governor appointed the Clerk of the Court and I am gratified to know that that man holds the office of Clerk of the County Court to this day. During that session I had an opportunity of learning something concerning the ability of your former Clerk of this County Court, Judge Woodson; I came to Boone prepossessed in his favor. I have been intimately connected with him in office for near a quarter of a century, and have had no occasion to change the opinion then formed. I served two sessions in the Legislature, and about five or six years was a member of the County Court before I came to this County.

To faithfully discharge the duties of County Court Judge is no child's play. The fact is, it is the most important office to the masses of the people known to the law; and in retiring from it, I feel that I am relieved of very onerous responsibilities, which I have always endeavored honestly and faithfully to discharge.

Extracts from address delivered before the old settlers association of Boone County, Mo., in 1908 by Col. Squire Turner:

—"Perhaps Judge Alexander Persinger had the strangest, the most unique life as well as an illustrious career upon the bench and as a leg-



islator. Judge Persinger never knew what his family's real name was, and thereby hangs a romance.

Way back in 1757, when a party of Virginians had surprised a tribe of the Shawnee Indians in the French and Indian War, it was found that among the defeated red men was a mere boy, a white boy at that, who had been so long among the Shawnees that he was to all intents and purposes an Indian. The Indians either did not know or would not tell who he was. The boy manifested his preference for his Indian friends and would doubtless have been permitted to stay with them if Jacob Persinger, a man of substance and reputation in Botetourt County, had not ended all discussion by adopting him. Jacob Persinger gave the Indian-white boy his family name. The boy grew to manhood, prospered, became influential, bore a prominent part in the Revolutionary War and in 1790 became the father of Alexander Persinger, who after a long and honorable career, died in Columbia on September 12, 1875, at the home of his daughter, the late Mrs. James E. Johnson.

Judge Persinger left Virginia in 1811 and went to the Kentucky-Tennessee region. When the call for troops came in the war against England the next year, he was one of the first to volunteer. He served through the two and a half years of that war with distinction and soon after peace was declared, went to the Indiana and Northwest territory. Judge Persinger left Illinois, at that time a part of that territory, in 1815 for what is now Montgomery County, Missouri, where he lived for twenty years. He was the first county judge that Montgomery County ever had, if not the first legally appointed or elected judge in Missouri, having been appointed to that position by the governor in 1821. He also represented Montgomery County in the state legislature.

In 1835 Judge Persinger removed to Boone County where all the rest of his life was spent. He served the county eighteen years as presiding judge of her court and never once ran for office. He also represented the county twice in the legislature."

Below are extracts from "The Bench and Bar of Boone County," a book compiled by N. T. Gentry, once judge of the Supreme Court of Missouri.

—"A lawyer from Pennsylvania was once in Columbia—and a public function was given at which Judge Persinger made a speech. His talk was so sound and his personality so great that the lawyer said to a number of people: 'If we had such a man as Alex. Persinger in Pennsylvania, we would send him to Congress and keep him there the rest of his life.' "

In writing about Judge Persinger, Dr. W. T. Lenoir said:

"Young men of Missouri, whenever with uncovered heads, you look



upon the portrait of Judge Alexander Persinger in the Boone County Court House, and think of his long and useful life, his spotless reputation and pure character, may you be possessed with a hungering and thirsting after right living and a firm resolve to emulate his many virtues."

To Jacob Persinger and his wife, Mary Kimberlin, were born the following children:

Mattie Rose Persinger. Mary Persinger, who married Samuel Carpenter, Senior. Andrew Persinger, not known who he married. Alexander Persinger, who married Anne Simpson. Sally Persinger, who married a Mr. Wright. Joseph Persinger, who married Eliza Brannon. John Persinger, not known who he married. Elizabeth Persinger, married Conrad Fudge. Nancy Persinger, married a Mr. Calahan. Jennie Persinger, married a Mr. Karnes. Granville Persinger, married a Clarkson.

The Daughters of the American Revolution at Washington, have a copy of Jacob Persinger's will, dated July 3, 1840, and probated in May, 1841. In this will he says, "I constitute and appoint my beloved son, John Persinger and my grand-son Samuel Carpenter, Jr., my Executors." In a second clause of his will, "I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter, Mary Carpenter, deceased, that is, to her daughters now living, \$250.00, to be divided in equal portions among them, in current money of Virginia."

Alexander Persinger, son of Jacob Persinger, went West and became a pioneer settler of Illinois, and in 1818 he crossed the Mississippi River into what was then Missouri Territory. He was born July 11, 1790, married Anne Simpson, and served in the War of 1812. From "Bench and Bar" of Boone County, Missouri, by N. T. Gentry, Judge of Missouri Supreme Court, there are given some notes on the life of James B. Persinger, son of Judge Alexander Persinger, born in Montgomery County, Missouri, in 1824. In his youth he moved with his father to Boone County, Missouri, was admitted to the bar in 1849, and in that year, or 1850, in the "Gold Rush" to California, he died on the "overland road."

The following clipping, from a recent Columbia, Missouri, paper, tells the tragic story of the death of James B. Persinger:

"It is only a little brown leather-backed volume of 50 pages, but it is one of the treasured heirlooms of Mrs. L. H. Rice, 100 Orr Street. To be more explicit, it is an autographed diary of one of the California gold seekers who treked through here with others in 1850. The author is Mrs. Rice's uncle, James Beverly Persinger, then

26 years old. He died just before reaching the "golden" state in that year. The book, which tells of the snail's pace with which the trip across the country was made, was brought back to Columbia by friends of the family after the body of the young man was buried by his friends on the plains."



## CHAPTER X

# “The Parting of the Ways”

AT Fort Carpenter the defending of the frontier against the Indians, was in the past, and the family of Samuel Carpenter, Sr., and his wife Mary (Persinger) Carpenter, was going the way of all normal families. Five of the daughters, Sallie, Rebecca, Martha, Jennie (or Jane) and Nancy married. Polly and Elizabeth never married and were at home with their father and mother, (Samuel Carpenter, Sr., and Mary (Persinger) Carpenter). Through the influence of, or by the invitation of Alexander Persinger (“Uncle Aleck”) brother of Mary (Persinger) Carpenter, Joseph Carpenter decided to “go West,” this he did between 1820-1830, (exact date not known). From the record found at the Court House in Columbia, Missouri, it is learned that a patent dated June 12, 1825, for land, made out to Joseph Carpenter, assignee of Alexander Persinger was taken out, which is evidence that the land was selected for Joseph Carpenter prior to his going to Missouri, as the patent gave his residence as Botetourt County, which then included Alleghany County, Virginia. This grant or patent was signed by President John Quincy Adams. It is printed on parchment, evidently for use during the preceding President James Monroe, and his name is printed on it in bold type, but the form was not discarded for that reason. They were not wasteful in those days, *as now*, for a line is drawn through the name, James Monroe and the name of John Quincy Adams written in. This patent is in the possession of David Bruton Carpenter, now living in Hallsville, Missouri, (1949).

In a letter from him he states that it was by the request of his grandfather (Joseph Carpenter’s father) who was Samuel Carpenter, Sr., that Alexander Persinger selected the land, and that the said Samuel Carpenter, Sr., paid the entry price for same. In connection with this provision for Joseph Carpenter, by his father Samuel Carpenter, Sr., the following will shed light on the subject:

### AN INTERESTING OLD DOCUMENT

We give our readers, this week, a copy of the will of Samuel Carpenter, Sr., made in Virginia, in 1842, which contains some features not found in the wills of today. The document is copied, word for word, and the spelling, punctuation and capitalization is followed closely.

This Samuel Carpenter was a great grandfather of Mrs. G. W. Corzine, of 814 South Emporia Avenue, Salina, Kansas, through whose



courtesy we received this copy. Her grandmother was the Sarah Brunnemer, mentioned in the will. It will be seen that Mrs. Brunnemer did not get any slaves in her portion. This was because her family was opposed to slavery, and had moved to Indiana in 1831. This family had two sons in the Union Army, while many of the family from Virginia were in the Confederate Army.

Here is the will:

#### COPY OF SAMUEL CARPENTER'S WILL

I Samuel Carpenter Senr, of the County of Alleghany and State of Virginia being of sound mind and disposing memory, do hereby constitute this my last will and Testament, in the following manner. —In the first place I give and bequeath to my son Samuel Carpenter, Jnr, all my personal and real Estate except what is herein after disposed of. Second, I give and bequeath to my son Joseph Carpenter, all the Lands lying and being in the State of Missouri, for which he has deeds, together with their appurtenances, Also my Slave Alexander. —Third I give and bequeath to my Daughter Rebecca Persinger, Four hundred Dollars in money. —Fourth I give and bequeath to My Daughter Sarah Brunnemer Four hundred Dollars in money. Fifth I give and bequeath to my Daughter Nancy Dressler My Slave Milly, with her future offspring. Sixth I give and bequeath to my Daughter Martha Mallow my slave Mary. Seventh, I give and bequeath to my Daughter-in-Law Martha A. Carpenter my Slave Adaline. Eighth, I give and bequeath to my Grand son Gerard Morgan Tachett One hundred Dollars to remain in the hands of the Administrators without Interest until he arrives at the age of Twentyone Years, if he be then Alive if not to my son Samuel Carpenter Jnr. My Slave Thomas I desire to be sold and the amount to be equally divided among the legatees. I furthermore constitute it a part of my last Will and Testament that if any one or more of the above named Legatees be dissatisfied and for his her or themselves, are disposed and do enter into litigation with the others in relation to the above disposition I have made of my property, then he her or their proportion to be nul and and void, and to be equally distributed between the rest of the legatees. And I do hereby constitute and appoint my son Samuel Carpenter Jr. & John Mallow Executors of this my last Will & Testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 4th day of March, 1842.

Samuel Carpenter (Seal).

## Samuel Carpenter, Sr.

AS has been stated before, Samuel Carpenter, Sr., was married to Mary Persinger, daughter of Jacob Persinger. To them were born Joseph Carpenter and Mary, twins—born June 3, 1800. Mary died at an early age, and Joseph married Arabella Davis, who was born January 18, 1812, in Georgetown, Scott County, Kentucky, daughter of Daniel W. Davis and Lucinda (Hawkins) Davis.

They were married September 29, 1831, in Boone County, Missouri. Arabella (Davis) Carpenter died July 6, 1851. Joseph was married the second time to Mrs. Simpson Chambers, a widow who had no children.

In a letter from Joseph Carpenter's grandson, David Bruton Carpenter, now living in Hallsville, Missouri, 1949, speaking of the fine qualities of his step-grandmother in these words, we read, "We children loved her as our own grandmother, and our own could not have been more considerate of us." Joseph Carpenter was born June 3, 1800 and died December 27, 1874.

Other children born to Samuel Carpenter, Sr., and Mary (Persinger) Carpenter, were: Sallie, who married William Brunnemer; Rebecca, who married Adam Persinger; Martha, who married John Mallow; Jennie (or Jane), who married Isaac Tackett; Nancy, who married Charles Dressler; Polly and Elizabeth, who remained single, and Samuel Carpenter, Jr., who married Martha Allen, ("Patsy") Hannah.

To John Mallow and Martha (Carpenter) Mallow were born Kitty, who married DeWitt Steele, to whom were born Isaac, Joe and John Steele, Kate, Callie and Dolly Steele. Mattie Mallow, who married William McCray of Bath County, to whom were born five sons, Will, John, Charles, Joe and Bernard McCray.

Charlotte Mallow, married Jake Bridgett, to whom were born Mattie, who married Joe Sam Persinger (Salt Peter Cave), Charles, George, Ned and Matthew Hook; Emma, who married Will Persinger, who was descended from Jacob Persinger, the Indian captive, to whom were born Andrew Jacob, Munford Tavenor, William Gregory, Jack Bridgett, Ethel Payne Persinger, Bessie Persinger, Mary Julia Persinger, Ruth Virginia Persinger, Naomi Hull Persinger, Dorothy Holloway Persinger—Children of Munford Tavenor and Addie May Persinger are Munford Tavenor, Jr., George Meredith, Helen Charlotte Persinger, and Jack Kyle Persinger. Minnie Bridgett married Samuel Fudge, son of Andrew Fudge, to whom were born Joe, Cecil, Katie, Sallie, Mary and Lottie. Lottie married Dr. J. S. Earman who is now deceased. Mrs. Earman is now associated with the Industrial Rayon Corporation, Covington, Virginia.



## CHAPTER XII

# Joseph Carpenter and Arabella Davis Carpenter, or the Missouri Carpenter Heirs

TO Joseph and Arabella were born the following: Mary Frances Carpenter, Samuel Carpenter, who died in infancy, Sarah Catherine Carpenter, James Carpenter, who died very young, and William Hawkins Carpenter, who was born near Columbia, Missouri, June 23, 1836 and died June 18, 1934 at Centralia, Missouri, where he was buried. He was married December 18, 1863, to Amanda Susan Bruton, who was born November 7, 1845, near Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, died March 18, 1932, Centralia, Missouri. Nine children were born to this union:

(1) Arabella Davis Carpenter—Born January 14, 1865, married April 19, 1893 to Dr. Albert Henry Cox, who was born December 26, 1860, and died October 27, 1919.

(2) Joseph Carpenter—Born July 20, 1868, died October 27, 1874.

(3) David Bruton Carpenter—Born August 30, 1870, near Centralia, Missouri, married November 18, 1925, at Quincy, Illinois, to Miss Louise Scheid—Born March 14, 1891, Freeburg, Illinois.

(4) Mary Frances Carpenter—Born November 10, 1872, near Centralia, Missouri, (unmarried).

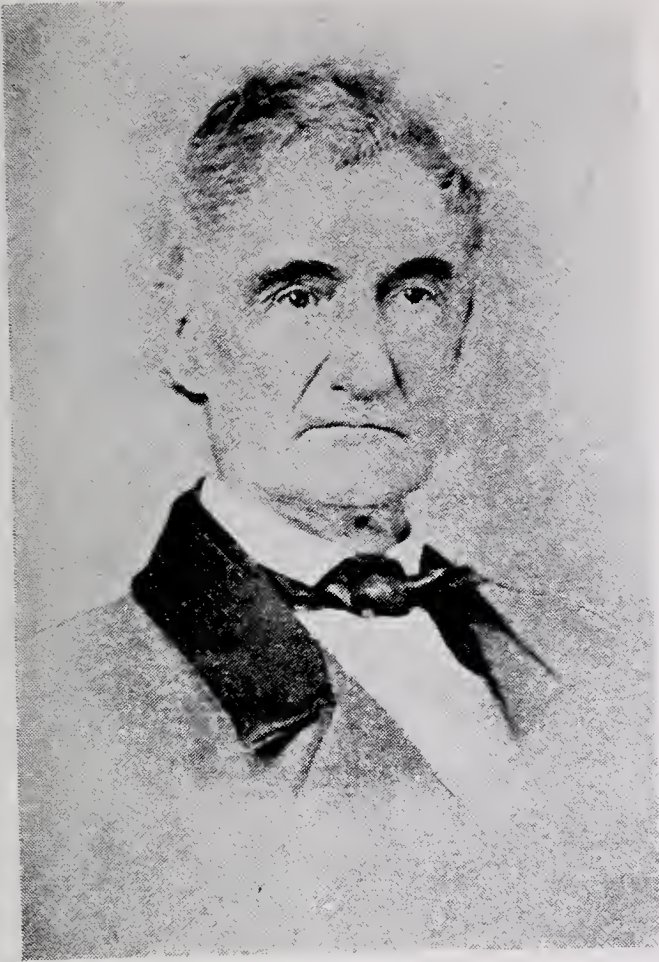
(5) Kate Hurt Carpenter—Born May 4, 1875, Centralia, Missouri, (unmarried).

(6) Jennie Garrard Carpenter—Born June 18, 1877, Centralia, Missouri, (unmarried).

(7) Charles Dickens Carpenter—Born August 26, 1879, died June 21, 1885.

(8) Lucy Grant Carpenter—Born March 19, 1882, Centralia, Missouri, married November 22, 1910 to Charles Lawrence Bly, born November 18, 1874, Indianapolis, Indiana—Died May 25, 1933, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

(9) Julia Lee Carpenter—Born June 5, 1888, Died August 23, 1902, Centralia, Missouri, and was buried there.



JOSEPH CARPENTER

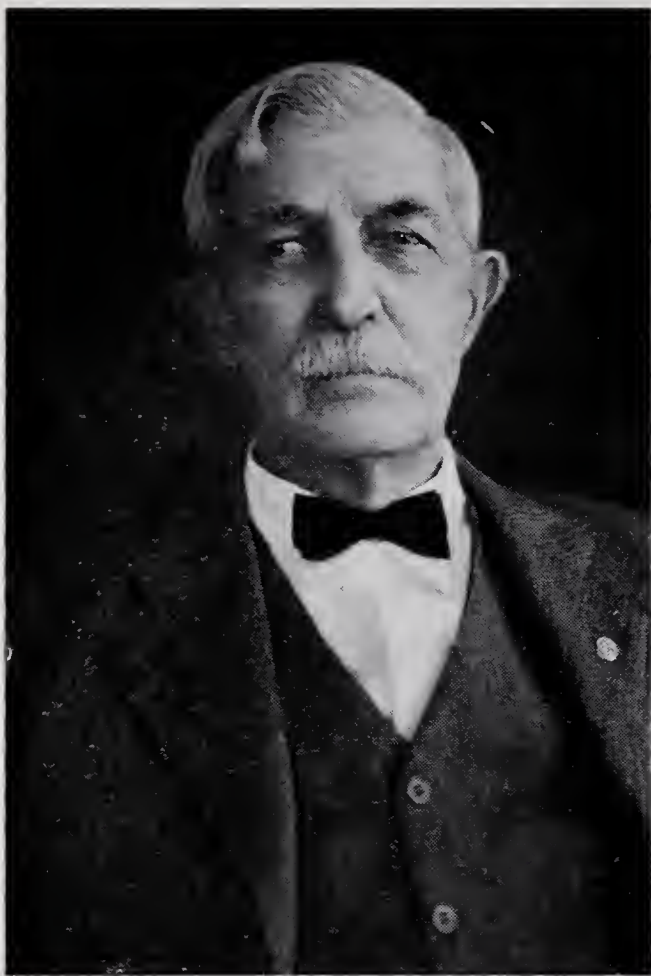
See Pages 23 and 24

ARABELLA DAVIS CARPENTER  
WIFE OF JOSEPH CARPENTER

See Pages 23 and 24







WILLIAM HAWKINS CARPENTER

See Page 24

AMANDA SUSAN BRUTON CARPENTER  
WIFE OF  
WILLIAM HAWKINS CARPENTER

See Page 24



The Carpenter family in Missouri is quite remarkable, with five sisters living in the old home in Centralia—two of them are widows, Lucy Carpenter Bly and Arabella Carpenter Cox, and three unmarried sisters, Mary Frances Carpenter, Kate Hurt Carpenter and Jennie Garrard Carpenter, constituting a happy household—five sisters growing old together and yet keeping young in spirit, interested in world topics and affairs, and interesting to their friends, who are many.

In Hallsville, not far away, David Bruton Carpenter and his wife, Louise Scheid Carpenter live. David is Cashier and Vice-President of the State Bank of Hallsville. He also operates his farm, "Woodlawn," which was the Carpenter homestead. He and his wife visit Virginia every few years. The families separated in 1820, but keep in close touch by these visits.

A letter from Lucy Carpenter Bly, widow of Charles Lawrence Bly, to the writer of this history, listed the names of all who reside in the old home at 104 South Jefferson Avenue, and she gave to the residence the cognomen of "The Old Ladies' Home," said name having been given by the Census-Taker. The sisters relished this title for their home, showing their keen sense of humor.

David Bruton Carpenter and Louise (Scheid) his wife, have been to the five sisters a tower of strength, always ready to advise and counsel them when difficulties arise.

Their times of meeting in the two homes to celebrate anniversaries and holidays must be really feast days, with members of both households present. David Bruton refers to these occasions as great times of reunion with the old friends and the family, and of indulging in regular "Talk fests"—In one reference to his old home he spoke of the step grandmother's rocking chair, "In which I have seen her sit and knit so often (which knitting, as a little boy I took such joy in unravelling, they tell me) said rocking chair was one of the few things saved when a careless tenant burned the old home, "Woodlawn."

The chair is not in the best of repair, but it has its place in the front office of the State Bank in Hallsville, Missouri. Our grandmother's place was usually in it near the fireplace, with a soft lambskin dyed red, over the back and her hearth broom near by, I hope to carry that "homey" picture in my memory to the end of the way."

We will now take up the history of Samuel Carpenter, Jr., and those who followed him, in other words, the Virginia branch of the family—those who stayed by the Fort!.





DAVID BRUTON CARPENTER

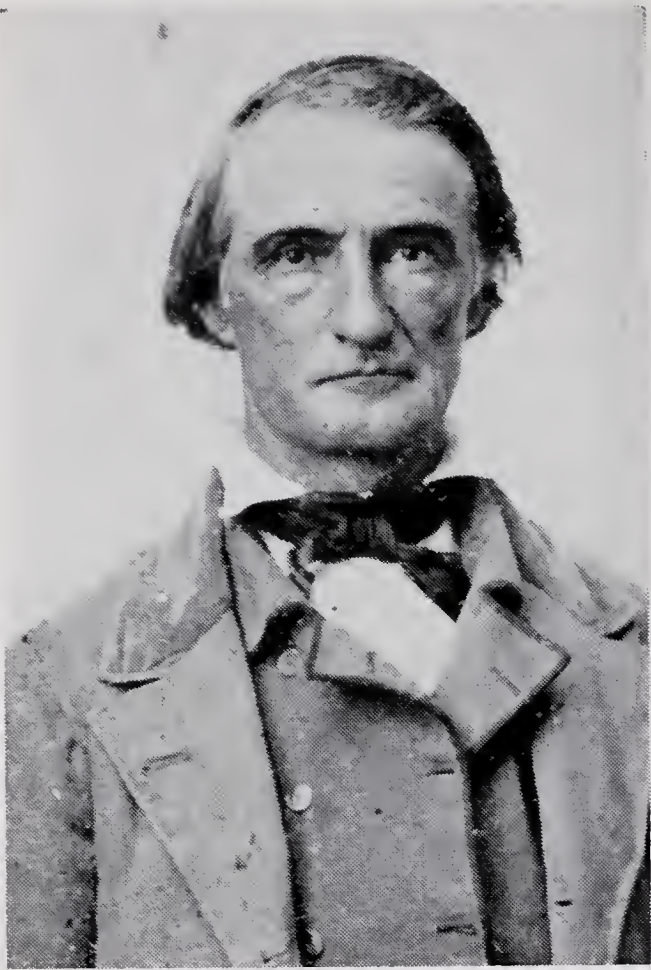
See Pages 24 and 27

LOUISE SCHEID CARPENTER  
WIFE OF DAVID BRUTON CARPENTER

See Pages 24 and 27







COLONEL SAMUEL CARPENTER, JR.

See Page 31

MARTHA ALLEN HANNAH CARPENTER  
WIFE OF  
COLONEL SAMUEL CARPENTER, JR.

See Page 31



## CHAPTER XIII

### Samuel Carpenter, Jr.

SAMUEL CARPENTER, JR., known to his friends as "Colonel Sam," was the second son of Samuel Carpenter, Sr., and Mary (Perringer) Carpenter; he was born at Fort Carpenter, March 26, 1812. He lived on with his father and mother and two single sisters at the Fort, after his older brother Joseph heard the call from the "West," and heeded it, thus casting his lot with the maternal side of the family. Joseph moved to Missouri about 1823.

Samuel Carpenter, Jr., married Martha Allen Hannah from Craig County, and the following children were born to them.

- |                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Joseph Hannah Carpenter.     | 6. James McDowell Carpenter.   |
| 2. Harriet Elizabeth Carpenter. | 7. Charles Carroll Carpenter.  |
| 3. John Cadwalider Carpenter.   | 8. George Munford Carpenter.   |
| 4. Samuel Steuben Carpenter.    | 9. William Chambers Carpenter. |
| 5. Mary Catharine Carpenter.    |                                |

The birth of Samuel Carpenter, Jr., at Fort Carpenter has been recorded. He lived the life of a prosperous farmer at his ancestral home, until 1839, when he represented his District intermittently in the Virginia Assembly from 1839 to 1863 and once again from 1875-1877. He was defeated finally in the election in which the Readjuster's policy was the question at issue. He did his political electioneering on horseback, riding the district in company with his opponent, William Revercomb, for whom he also voted as befitted the generous gesture of the statesman of that era. The above information was gotten from some notes on the Carpenters of Alleghany County, written by Mrs. Mary Skeen Venable.

After leaving Fort Carpenter, "Colonel Sam" moved to Covington and there he died, July 5, 1893 in the home of his son Samuel Steuben Carpenter, of that city.

Martha Allen Hannah Carpenter died the 22nd of December, 1857. The following notice of her death appeared in the *Richmond Enquirer* and *The Whig* of that date, and was printed as follows:

#### MARTHA ALLEN HANNAH CARPENTER

"In recording the death of this amiable lady it is due that something should be mentioned of her lovely character. The deceased has been a devoted Christian for many years, making a profession of faith in Christ and joining the Church while the lamented Dion. C. Pharr was pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Covington, Virginia. She



was eminently judicious, spiritually minded, winning the love and confidence of all, not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. In Sabbath School as teacher she was diligent and accurate. Her mind was discriminating, just and vivacious.

"The deceased leaves an afflicted family and many relatives and friends to mourn her loss. We would commend the afflicted family for substantial consolation to that God who loves and cares for His Church, and who hath said, 'Leave thy fatherless children, I will preserve them alive, and let thy widows trust in me.' "

Signed "B"

A memorial written by Samuel Carpenter, Junior, to his wife, "Patsy" Carpenter:

Richmond, March 26, 1858.

Partner of my youth-day dreaming,  
Partner of my manhood's prime,  
Partner of my days declining,  
Thou has left me here to pine.

Thou to sorrow here has left me,  
Lonely on this cheerless earth,  
Life no more hath charms without thee,  
Soon I'll follow thee to death.

But the hope, what joy it gives me  
That thy spirit to Heaven hath fled!  
'Tis this star will safely guide me  
To the City of the dead.

At the threshold of that City,  
Gentle spirit, meet me there;  
Loved one, lost one, thou wilt cheer me  
And wilt keep me from despair.

Thou wilt meet me, and wilt cheer me  
Through death's valley, dark and deep,  
'Til the light of Heaven shall greet me,  
Thou my wandering foot-steps keep.

Oh! These thoughts are overwhelming,  
Deepening sorrows o'er me come;  
God of Mercy, be relenting,  
"Not my will, but Thine be done."

Dedicated to his two daughters, Harriet Elizabeth and Mary Catherine Carpenter.

I shall give a short sketch of each child's life in the order in which they were born.

## CHAPTER XIV

# The First Captain Carpenter

JOSEPH HANNAH CARPENTER was born July 24, 1834. He was educated at the Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia, and graduated there on July 4, 1856 as a Civil Engineer. He entered military service as First Lieutenant of Virginia Volunteers. He had been an Artillery Cadet under General Thomas J. Jackson ("Stonewall"), and it is probably because of this, that when General Jackson was assigned to the independent command of the Valley of Virginia, the Company was converted into Artillery.

From the *History of Carpenter's Battery of the Stonewall Brigade*, written by C. A. Fonerden, in Chapter III we read, "Sometime in the early days of August, our brave and revered Captain Thompson McAllister, a native of Pennsylvania, being then about fifty years of age was compelled on account of ill health, to resign his commission and return to his home in Alleghany County, Virginia. At his resignation the Captaincy devolved upon our First Lieutenant, Joseph Hannah Carpenter." His commission as First Lieutenant and his commission as Captain, the former bearing the red seal and the latter the blue seal, and both signed by Governor John Letcher, are framed and are now hanging on the wall of the home of Joseph Carpenter, II, at Fort Carpenter.

A few years ago a friend of Captain Carpenter's living near Winchester, Virginia, sent to Joseph H. Carpenter, Sr., the present owner of Fort Carpenter, a clipping, from a newspaper published in Richmond in 1863, giving the following brief sketch of Captain Carpenter's military career:

"After Captain Carpenter was transferred to the command of light Artillery he served in the battles of the Valley of Virginia, with great distinction and gallantry. He was elected Lieutenant Colonel of the 27th Virginia Volunteers—but declined—was severely wounded at the battle of Cedar Mountain, August 9, 1862, from which wounds he died February 5, 1863."

The friend who so kindly sent this clipping, was, I am confident, more than just a friend of Captain Carpenter's, for with this clipping she sent a daguerreotype of Captain Carpenter and also a Testament that he had carried through the war. In the letter written at the time she said, "I cheerfully send you the dear little daguerreotype, which has



been one of my most priceless treasures for forty-eight years," and thereby hangs a "romance." In the Fall of 1910 a letter came to the Covington Postoffice, addressed to the nearest of kin to Captain Joseph Carpenter. The husband of the writer of this history received and claimed it and answered it. It was from Mrs. W. H. Gold, whose maiden name was Viola Putnam. It was she who later sent the daguerreotype and Testament and wrote, "It is right that you should have this picture of your gallant Uncle, as you were named for him. You can hand it down to your own little son, when he is old enough to appreciate the chivalric heroism of his ancestors." Then followed an invitation to visit her in her home at "Cedar Mead," near Winchester, Virginia. This we did and she told us very interesting things that occurred in the Valley of Virginia during the war. She told us of one experience in Captain Carpenter's and her life.

While she was being carefully chaperoned by the wife of General *Gordon* in an Inn in Winchester, Captain Carpenter came to call and told her of the plight of his men and himself because of their threadbare uniforms. He also told her of the efforts of the good women at home (Covington, Virginia) to keep the soldiers supplied with needed clothing, for in the McCurdy Hotel dining room a space was set apart as a sewing-room, in which the uniforms were made by *hand*. Miss Mag McCurdy was the "head-cutter" with Miss Harriet Carpenter and Miss Elizabeth Sively as assistants, and about twenty other young women worked at the sewing tables. For some reason the work was held up and some pants had been sent, unmade, to Captain Carpenter, among them were two pairs for himself—cut and ready to be made. As he told his woeful tale to his friend, she with proper decorum excused herself and went to consult her chaperone as to the propriety of offering to make the pants for him. To which the sage replied, with a sniff, "The only impropriety I can think of, is that you do not know how to make them." Whereupon the two ladies set to work and the Captain was soon outfitted in tailored trousers! Mrs. Gold told also of Captain Carpenter dining with General Jackson in Winchester during this time, and on the bill-of-fare Opossum was the "piece de resistance." Captain Carpenter cut off the opossum's paw and sent it to her, "I dropped the little paw in my bottle of cologne where it was soon preserved; I kept it among my choicest relics for many years, when a cousin came along gathering trophies of this kind, and gave me no rest until I let her have it, though I did not give it to her. At her death some years ago, she gave it to her step-son, I hope I may yet recover it."

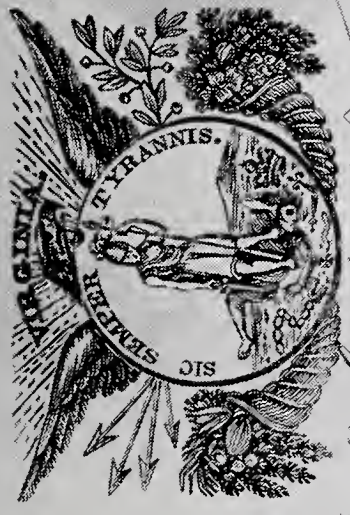
Captain Carpenter was wounded in the battle of Cedar Mountain, from which wounds he died February 5, 1863. In Fonerden's history



128

Commonwealth

THE

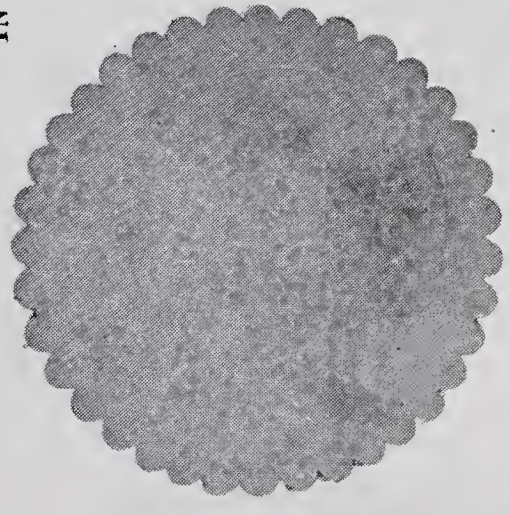


of Virginia,

To *Joseph H. Carpenter* Greeting:

Know You, That from special trust and confidence reposed in your fidelity, courage and good conduct, our GOVERNOR, in pursuance of the authority vested in him by the Constitution and Laws of this Commonwealth, doth commission you a *First Lieutenant of Light Infantry in the 128th* Regiment of the *13th* Brigade and *3rd* Division of the VIRGINIA MILITIA, to rank as such from the *22nd* day of *April* 18*61*

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name as Governor, and caused the Seal of the Commonwealth to be affixed, this *15th* day of *May* 18*61*



*John Letcher*

1233652



Commonwealth



of Virginia.

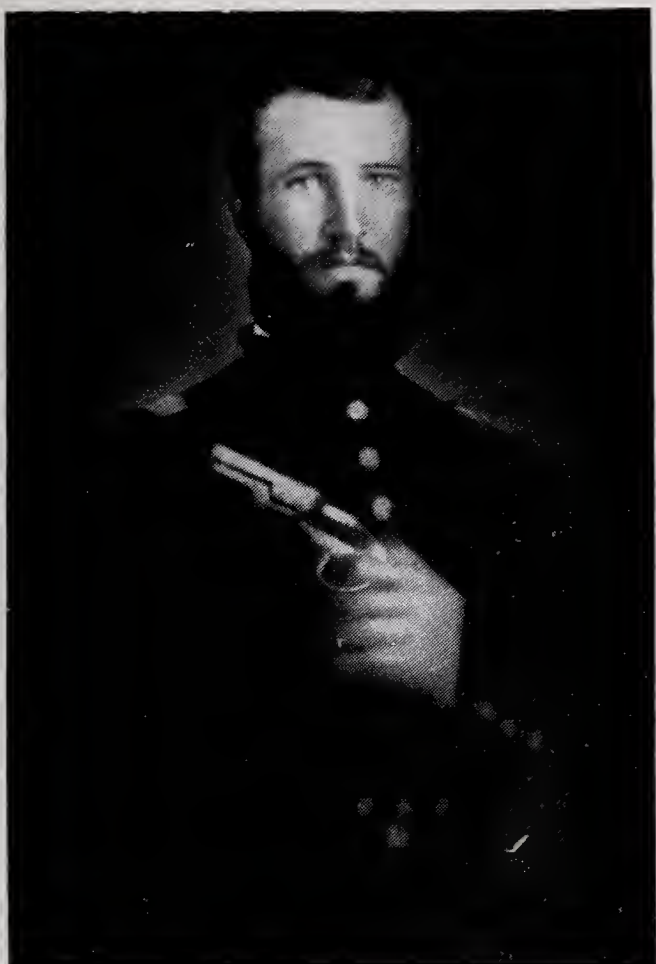
To Joseph H. Carpenter Greeting:

Know You, That from special trust and confidence reposed in your fidelity, courage and good conduct, our GOVERNOR, in pursuance of the authority vested in him by the Constitution and Laws of this Commonwealth, doth commission you a *Captain of Light Infantry in the 128<sup>th</sup> — Regiment of the 13<sup>th</sup> Brigade and 5<sup>th</sup> Division of the VIRGINIA MILITIA,* to rank as such from the *26<sup>th</sup>* day of *August* 18*61*

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereto signed my name as Governor, and caused the Seal of the Commonwealth to be affixed, this *29<sup>th</sup>* day of *August* 18*61*



*John C. Hunter*

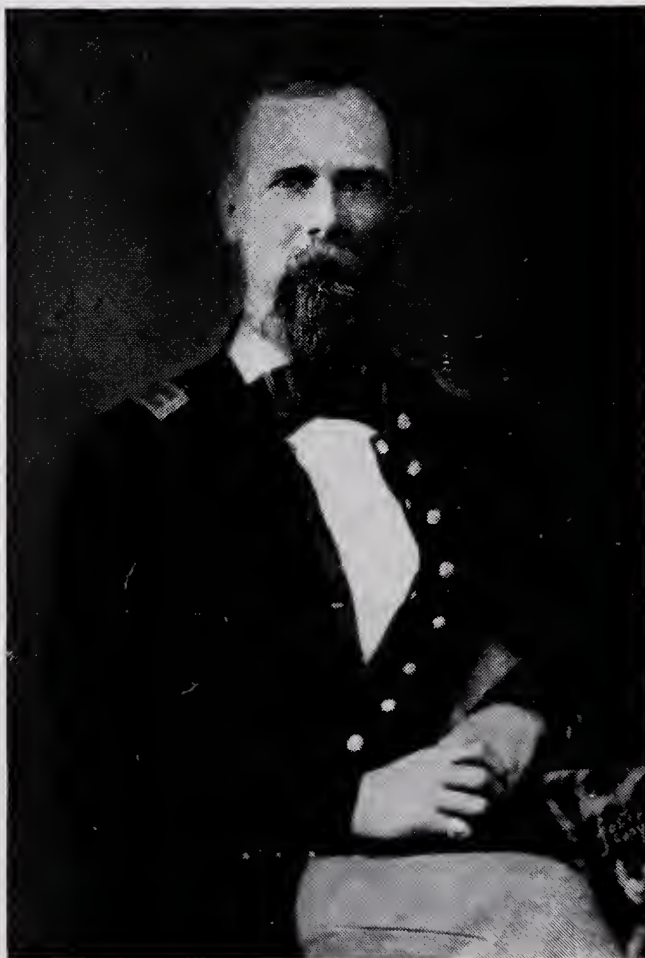


CAPTAIN JOSEPH HANNAH CARPENTER

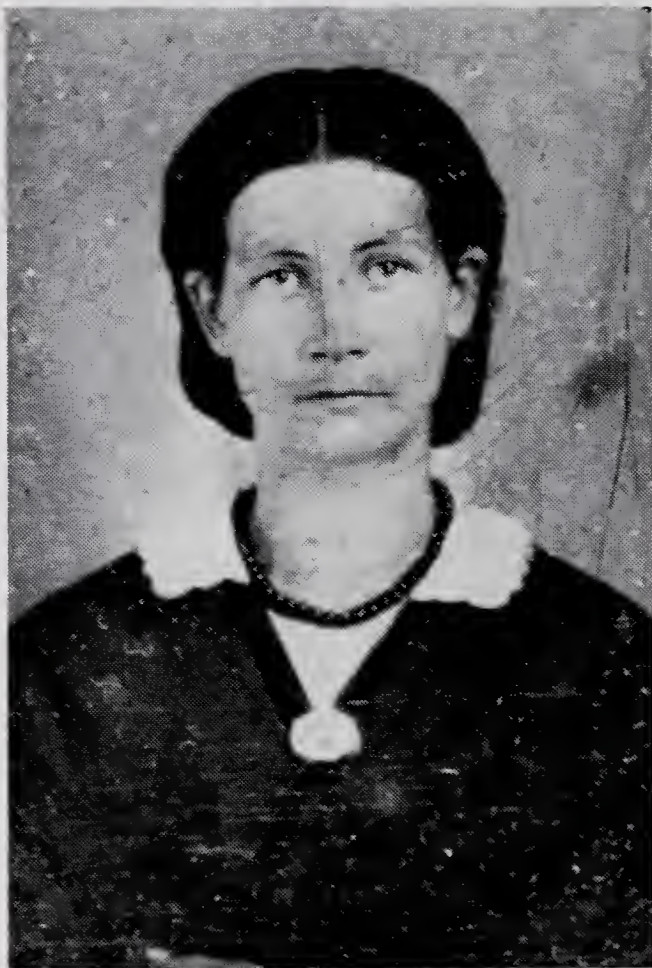
See Page 33

CAPTAIN  
JOHN CADWALIDER CARPENTER

See Page 41







MISS "HARRIET" CARPENTER

See Page 39

of *Carpenter's Battery* (page 30), he has this to say of that battle, "That indeed was a costly battle to us, our fine and noble Captain Joseph Carpenter, who has been as heretofore stated, an educated artilleryman, under General Jackson, at the Virginia Military Institute at the beginning of our gigantic Civil War, being there mortally wounded. This efficient officer's conspicuous services and great popularity as a Battery Commander endeared him very greatly to our Company, officers and men alike, and his death occurring later was deplored beyond expression."

The next one of Colonel Samuel Carpenter's and his wife Martha (Hannah) Carpenter's children, in order as to their birth, was Harriet Elizabeth Carpenter, born February 22, 1837—Died May 29, 1925. "Miss Harriet," because of her strength of character, loyalty to her Church (Presbyterian), devotion to her family, and knowledge of her Bible, became an authority on all moral and religious subjects; even known skeptics would quote her on matters of right and wrong. Her love for the South and her help through its conflict in those awful years of the Civil War entitled her to be enrolled as a "Soldier of the Confederacy." She truly served as doctor and nurse to her wounded brothers and her spare time, if any, was given to the sewing room in the McCurdy Hotel, which was under the leadership of Miss Mag McCurdy. We read of those dark days, "as a tale that is told," but they were very real to "Miss Harriet," so real that when she was asked to have a part in the unveiling of the Confederate Monument on the Court House lawn on September 11, 1911, she refused the honor saying that her grief was too keen over the death of her brothers and the wounding of those who lived through the ordeal to take an active part in the celebration.

"Miss Harriet" guarded the family coin silver with watchful care, and when the word came, "The Yankees Are Coming! Hide the silver!", Miss Harriet gathered up her personal belongings and the silver, and into the mountains she hurried. There she found a huge boulder with a large crevice, into which she put her package and covered the cache with stones. The Yankees did not stop that day, but when she went to recover her watch and other valuables and silver, they were gone! Perhaps she was watched and someone in the community found it. She hunted the boulders with patience, not trusting her memory at a time of excitement, but her search was to no avail.



## CHAPTER XV

# Reconstruction Period

**T**IMES were pretty lean in old Alleghany after Averill's Raid. The bridge that stood where the Rosedale bridge now stands was a covered toll bridge. It was burned on December 19, 1863, and Covington was raided. Averill's men took everything they could find—horses, bed clothing and food—and what they could not use, they burned.

This was a surprise raid and there was no time to hide much food. At Fort Carpenter a crop was planted the following spring, and with the care of "Miss Harriet" and the few disabled men, a nice lot of corn was raised. Covington was under Federal Martial Law, at that time, and the crop was demanded. Miss Harriet, with her usual firmness, denied the officers the right to confiscate the corn. I have been told that the officers told her they would return with further instructions as to the mode of procedure in taking possession of the grain. She then warned them that, if and when, they did return, she would be sitting on the hill with her gun. They did not return! I did not hear this story from her, for she did not boast, but when I asked some "old-timers" who knew her, as to its authenticity, they shook their heads and said, "It sounded like her!"

Information gotten from Mrs. Garnett Ritsch and Miss Nan Vowels, was that during this period of Martial Law, Mr. Charles Adam Brockmeyer was Sheriff. Mr. Brockmeyer was the grandfather of Mrs. R. L. Gibson of "Rosedale," Covington, Virginia, and after Martial Law was lifted, he became a groceryman at the place the Citizen's Bank now stands. I asked if the people of the town patronized his business because of his office during the Reconstruction time, and they said, "Oh yes, every one liked Mr. Brockmeyer; he was fair and considerate of all."

When Miss Harriet's brother, Captain Joseph Carpenter was brought home wounded from the engagement at Cedar Mountain, it was her hands and skill that eased his pain, and it was her tact and ability, as a nurse, that diverted him when the weight on his head was hard to bear—for his wound was a head injury. The writer does know enough about "Miss Harriet" to know she would not like to be so extolled. But "all honor to whom honor is due."

## CHAPTER XVI

# The Second Captain Carpenter

THE next in line of the children of Samuel Carpenter, Jr., and Martha Allen Hannah Carpenter, was John Cadwalider Carpenter, who was born June 17, 1839 at Fort Carpenter, and died December 29, 1912, in Ely, Nevada. He was buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Covington, Virginia. He and a younger brother Samuel Steuben Carpenter were in school at "The Alleghany College" at Blue Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, when War between the States began, and they came home to Covington, Virginia, to enlist with their Company forming there. This Company was called the Alleghany Roughs, more generally known as "Carpenter's Battery." John Carpenter enrolled as a private April 22, 1861, at the age of twenty-two. When Captain Joseph Carpenter, a brother of John Carpenter's, was wounded at Cedar Mountain, and brought home where he afterwards died, John C. Carpenter became Captain of the Company by promotion by Governor Letcher. He proved a brave leader and was severely wounded several times. Mr. Fonerden in his history states that he was wounded three times at Fredericksburg, Fisher's Hill and Sharpsburg. Quoting Mr. Fonerden describing the engagement at Fisher's Hill, "Here Captain Carpenter was again wounded, as was his usual custom, on any favorable occasion." He lost his left arm just below the shoulder and "when Carpenter's Battery went into position under heavy fire, at or near the bridge crossing Antietam Creek, they were ordered to report to General Jeb Stuart the next morning, on the extreme left of our line we became fiercely engaged and Captain Carpenter was badly wounded." From *Fonerden's History*—The battle that was known as "Bloody Sharpsburg" left Captain Carpenter with his knee so badly crushed by a shell that amputation of the leg was pronounced necessary by the surgeons of the Northern Army into whose hands he had temporarily fallen. These surgeons also said that should it be possible to save the leg, he could never again have any use of it. To this amputation Captain Carpenter strenuously objected, but to no avail. Regardless of objections, preparations for the operation proceeded, and the patient was placed on the table. However, with his characteristic courage, Captain John took matters into his own hands. When apparently all was in readiness, with his strong, well leg drawn to his body, and with all the force he could muster, he struck the Surgeon a blow which threw him to the floor and the "operation was suspended." To shorten the story of this false diagnosis, Captain Carpen-



ter did return to his Company in due time, in good health, and with perfect use of his surgically condemned leg.

Again in the battle of Fredericksburg, Captain Carpenter and a number of men were wounded, and one was killed. About three weeks later the Army broke camp and again headed for the valley, reaching Winchester in June.

This story is not intended to lay emphasis on the battles of the Civil War, but to state briefly the part the Carpenters had in this tragic time of their nation's history. Necessarily to give a correct sketch of the life of Captain John Carpenter I must give certain facts of the movements of Carpenter's Battery. From the *History of the Alleghany Roughs*, written by William M. McAllister I gleaned the following: From Winchester, the Battery was ordered to join General Early's Army at Fisherville and there they went into winter quarters, but soon thereafter a portion of the company was sent to Petersburg to help man the guns in the fortifications, and about thirty of the men were sent back to Alleghany County with the artillery horses, in charge of Captain John Carpenter, with orders to be prepared to return to the command at a moments notice. This was in April of 1865, Lieutenant S. S. Carpenter was home on furlough, recuperating from his wounds. These men were ordered to return about the time of the fall of Richmond. They had reached Lexington, Virginia, when they received news of the surrender of General Lee. At first they refused to believe the report, but when they were convinced of its authenticity, they immediately started from Lexington to join General Johnston in Tennessee. When they got as far as Hollins Institute, they learned of the surrender of General Johnston. They returned to Covington, glorying in the fact that they *never* surrendered! And they could give the "Rebel's Yell" as lustily as when they faced the enemy's guns. The rest of Carpenter's Battery surrendered with General Lee. Captain Carpenter came out of the war a strong man, with the exception of having lost his left arm.

On October 24, 1874, Captain Carpenter was married to Alberta Clarkson McGuffin (always known as "Ollie"). To this union there were born five children, two girls and three boys. The boys were John McGuffin, William Watson and Albert J. Carpenter. The girls were Eva and Frances. Watson and Eva are deceased. John McGuffin never married, he lives in Alleghany County, and is a farmer. Albert J., Senior, was married twice; his first marriage was to Miss Louise Riepe, August 4, 1910. To this marriage two sons were born, Albert John and Louis Riepe, both of whom are living and married. Louis who has no children is now living in Rancagua, Chile, South America, employed by the Braden Copper Company, as a Mining Engineer. The other son, Albert

John is located in Washington, D. C., a Commander in the Coast Guard, assigned to the Commandant's Office. He was married to Miss Lucile Loder. They have a son, John Loder Carpenter. Albert J. Carpenter, Senior, was married the second time to Miss Kate Jenette Pulliam. Two sons, Edward Pulliam Carpenter and Harry Parker Carpenter were born to them. Both sons are married. Edward who married Miss Norma Jackson, is located in Salt Lake City, Utah. He is with the Reclamation Department as an Electrical Engineer. They have one daughter, Marlene Carpenter and two sons, Dan Jackson Carpenter and Raymond Edward Carpenter.

The other son, Harry Parker Carpenter, was married recently to Miss Ann Mason, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Wallace Mason of Berkeley, California. Harry is a graduate of the University of California, having majored in Business Administration. He served three years with the Army overseas in World War II. He is employed by the Union Oil Company, a subsidiary of the Standard Oil Company.

Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter are living at 1645 La Loma Avenue, Berkeley, California.

The only living daughter of Captain John Carpenter and "Ollie" McGuffin Carpenter is Frances Carpenter who married Mr. Samuel S. Smiley, now deceased. To them was born a son, Carpenter Smiley. They live in Los Angeles, California.



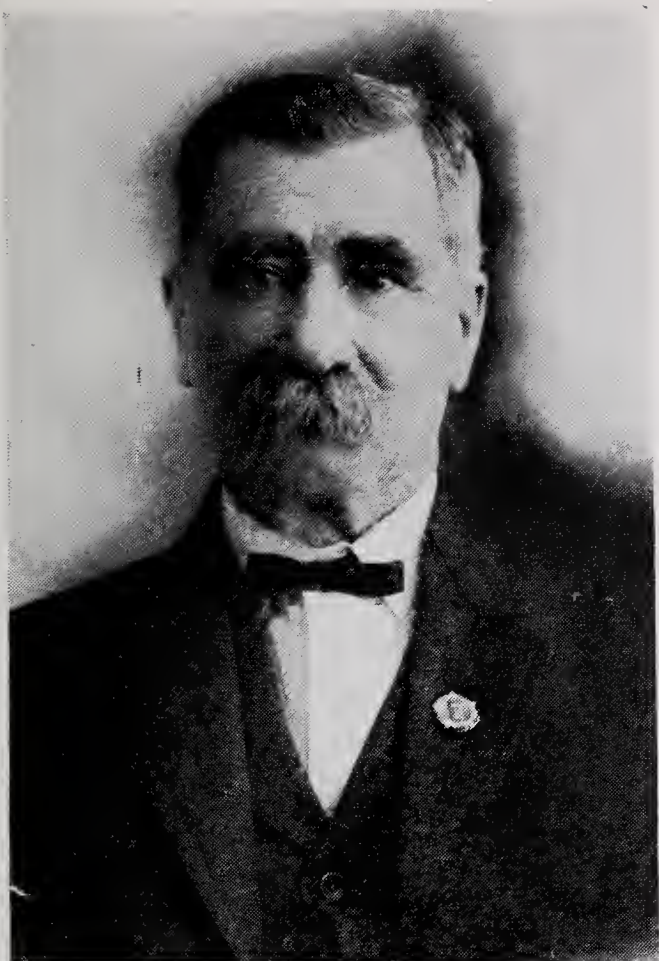
## Lieutenant Samuel Steuben Carpenter

THE next one in line of the children of Samuel Carpenter, Junior, and Martha Allen Hannah Carpenter, was Samuel Steuben Carpenter, born December 26, 1841, died October 10, 1909. He grew to young manhood at Fort Carpenter, and, when he was about sixteen years of age, went with his brother John Carpenter (afterwards Captain John Carpenter) to "The Alleghany College" at Blue Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. He remained in school till April 22, 1861. When the Alleghany Roughts formed a Company, he returned to enroll in it. He had tried previously to join the volunteers, but was rejected because of his youth. He was only nineteen years old when he joined the "Roughts."

He was severely wounded near Winchester, Virginia. When he and Comrade Benami Karnes were on the march up the Valley of Virginia, they left the road in order to see friends who gave them their dinner; on their way back to the road they encountered several Yankee spies clothed in Confederate uniforms. Lieutenant Carpenter better known as "Ben," rode up to them and asked to what Company they belonged? The Yankee nearest him raised his gun and he and Lieutenant Carpenter fired at the same time; both fell from their horses wounded, but the Yankee was able to "make his get away." The following letter to Colonel Samuel Carpenter, Junior, from Benami Karnes ("Ben") telling him about his son Samuel Steuben ("Ben") being seriously wounded, explains the situation better than the writer can. See Pages 46 and 47.

When Lieutenant Carpenter was taken to the home of Mrs. Cook, near Mellwood, to be nursed and cared for, we hear again of "Miss Harriet's" heroic courage. No one seems to know just how she made the trip to Mrs. Cook's but make it, she did. There was a train from Oakland Church, which was the western terminal of the Virginia Central Railroad, and she may have gotten a train from there. When this letter came to her father no earthly power could have held her and she found a way to reach Ben!

With her loving hands she nursed her brother, and hid him from the Yankees, for each day the Yankees came to see how the patient progressed for they meant to move him, as soon as he was able to be moved, to a prison camp. But there was another visitor each day to "Ben" Carpenter's room and he, too, was watching the patient's progress. He was a friendly visitor, also a member of Carpenter's Battery—"Truett" Baker—enrolled under the name of James T. Baker, Junior. The patient and "nurse" were becoming more restive each day for the Yankees



LIEUTENANT  
SAMUEL STEUBEN CARPENTER

See Page 44

MARY ANNE GRIFFITH CARPENTER  
WIFE OF  
LIEUTENANT  
SAMUEL STEUBEN CARPENTER

See Page 44





PS Don't ~~be~~ ~~worry~~ be uneasy about  
Ben he will be well Taken Care of.

Winchester

17<sup>th</sup> July 1844

Dear Rob

I have just arrived here for the purpose  
of telegraphing to you to let you know that Ben  
was very seriously <sup>through the right lung</sup> wounded, on yesterday (but  
~~I hope not dangerously)~~ but ~~send~~ there is no  
communication by telegraph, (I will give you  
the circumstances as near as I can. He and  
myself left the road some half mile, for the  
purpose of getting dinner after getting dinner  
was coming back to the road not thinking  
that there was a Yankee within miles of us  
& the first thing we knew we were in a Yankee  
rocket post. Ben drew his pistol (I had no  
arms) to fire on the one nearest to him.  
The Yankee raised his pistol & they both fired  
about the same instant, & both fell from  
their horses, wounded. The Yankee jumped  
up & ran Ben fired four other shots at  
him but missed him the other Yankees having run  
I got Ben up on his horse, to carry him off

but after carrying him a short distance  
he got too weak to ride. I then had to  
take him down & leave him as the Yankees  
were coming up the road again. As soon as  
I got to the road I got an ambulance  
& a company of Sharpshooters & went back  
after him & brought him off. We brought  
him on to our camp last night near  
Berryville ~~he~~ he rested very well last  
night & is a good deal better this morning  
than expected he would be. The doctors  
examined his wound this morning & say it  
is a severe wound but don't consider it a  
dangerous one. He will be taken to  
Mr. Cooks to day (near Millersville) where  
he will get every attention & I am in hopes  
will soon be well enough to be moved  
to a safe place. I can't tell what our  
movements will be, the Army has gone into  
Camp about Berryville 10 miles south of  
Winchester. After I left Ben the <sup>Yankees</sup> came up to him  
They gave him some water, & took his watch &  
pistol, they also asked him a good many questions  
which I am sure ~~were not~~ very satisfactorily answered.  
My best respects to all  
Ben Kearns





JOSEPH H. CARPENTER, SR.

See Pages 49, 50, 54

MARY EVELYN HARLOW CARPENTER  
WIFE OF  
JOSEPH H. CARPENTER, SR.

See Page 54



were becoming "too attentive" for them. One dark night "Truett" arrived with a horse, bridled and saddled, and took the patient away. His wound had not healed nor did it for a long time—the enemy's bullet had gone through the right lung coming out at the back. "Miss Harriet" had a positive, definite understanding with Mr. Baker that he was to return the next night for her, which he did, very reluctantly. He put her on the horse and walked beside her, fussing and complaining all the way. At a certain place on the highway he told his "passenger" to dismount and in a few terse words told her she could make the journey home the best way she could, as he did not mean to be taken a prisoner by the enemy, and he didn't mean to have any woman traipsing around after him. So "Miss Harriet" made her way to Staunton, a distance of about seventy-five miles, on foot. There she took a train for Oakland Church, or the terminal at Jackson's River, and from there she reached home—her brother having preceded her.

#### THE WEDDING OF SAMUEL STEUBEN CARPENTER

Before the close of the Civil War, on March 30, 1865, while at home convalescing from his wound, Samuel Steuben Carpenter and Mary Anne Griffith, daughter of Caleb and Elizabeth Mann Griffith, were married.

One of Samuel Steuben Carpenter's comrades was a guest at the wedding, which took place at the Griffith home at Falling Spring, Virginia, and he relates that when the bridal party left on horse back for Fort Carpenter and reached Jackson's River, there being no bridge, they started to ford the stream. The river was higher than the party expected and soon the water was over the horses' backs. The bride, an excellent horse-woman, sprang to her feet as the horse swam the turbulent stream, and standing perfectly erect in the saddle, rode safely over. Her raven-black hair had come unfastened, and cascading over her shoulders, brushed the horse's back. This thrilling picture the guest could never erase from his memory. In his own words, as he expressed it years later, "A sight I shall never forget!"

When orders came to return to duty, Samuel Steuben Carpenter, with Captain John Carpenter and others, got as far as Lexington when they received information that General Lee had surrendered. This part of their experiences I have recorded in the sketch of Captain John Carpenter's life.

To the union of Samuel Steuben Carpenter and Mary Anne Griffith ("Molly") Carpenter were born Robert Franklin Carpenter, born March 27, 1866—died June 22, 1941. Joseph H. Carpenter, born



August 28, 1867 (still living). Martha Elizabeth Carpenter, born June 30, 1869—died March 11, 1884. Samuel Caleb Carpenter, born September 16, 1871—died April 24, 1940. Mary Steuben Carpenter, born October 5, 1873—died August 17, 1884. William Carroll Carpenter, born January 29, 1875—died August 17, 1884. Sarah Anne Carpenter, born June 2, 1878—died August 17, 1884. Lillian McCorkle Carpenter, born January 5, 1881 (still living). Edith Griffith Carpenter, born June 21, 1883 (still living).

The oldest son, Robert Franklin Carpenter married Miss Edith Motteram of Newport, Kentucky, June 19, 1901, and to them were born three sons—Jac Motteram Carpenter, Robert Franklin Carpenter, Jr., and William Steuben Carpenter. Jac Motteram Carpenter married Miss Elizabeth Taylor of Cincinnati, Ohio, and to them were born two sons—Jac Motteram Carpenter, Junior, and Nicholas Carpenter. Robert Franklin Carpenter II, the second son of Robert Franklin and Edith (Motteram) Carpenter, married Miss Meridith Davis of Memphis, Tennessee, and to them were born two children—Robert Franklin Carpenter III, (Linn), and a daughter Meridith. William Steuben Carpenter, the third son of Robert Franklin and Edith (Motteram) Carpenter, married Miss Dorothy Rhoads of Memphis, Tennessee, and to them has been born a daughter, Mary Mobley.

A sketch of the life of Joseph H. Carpenter, the second son of Samuel Steuben and Mary Anne Griffith Carpenter, is being reserved till the last of this history, as he is the present owner of Fort Carpenter (1949), and to him this history is dedicated.

The third child born to Samuel Steuben Carpenter and Mary Anne Carpenter was Martha Elizabeth Carpenter—Born June 30, 1869 and died March 11, 1884. "Mattie" as she was affectionately known by her family and friends, only lived fifteen years, but she lived long enough to endear herself to all who knew her.

The next in birth to this union was Samuel Caleb Carpenter, born at Fort Carpenter, September 16, 1871—died April 24, 1940 in Marshall Texas. "Sam" by which name he was known, was engaged in railroad work in Virginia and in New York where he was employed in the waterwork's dam construction for New York City. Later he was employed in constructing the drainage canal from Chicago, Illinois. In the last years of his life he moved to a climate better suited to his physical condition, having suffered with asthma from his early youth and he found Texas more conducive to his health. He invested in some oil holdings and was also engaged in farming near Marshall, Texas. He never married and on April 24, 1940 he died suddenly at his home there.



Mary Steuben Carpenter, another daughter of Samuel Steuben and Mary Anne Carpenter, was born October 5, 1875 and died August 17, 1884 at the age of nine years. Her death marked a sad epoch in the Carpenter family life, for on the same day (August 17, 1884) two other children, William Carroll Carpenter, born January 29, 1875, and Sarah Anne Carpenter born June 2, 1878, died during a malignant epidemic of diphtheria, before the discovery of antitoxin.

We have given a short history of the lives of six children born to Samuel Steuben Carpenter and his wife Mary Anne (Griffith) Carpenter. The seventh child was Lillian McCorkle Carpenter, born in Covington, Virginia, January 5, 1881, where most of her life was spent. She was associated with, and identified with, everything that affected the social life and well being of the community. She is active in her Garden Club, and delights in her own garden, where many beautiful flowers are grown. She belongs to the First Presbyterian Church, and for many years was a member of its choir. On October 21, 1903, in the First Presbyterian Church, (Covington, Virginia), she was married to Edgar Allen Crawford, whose home was in Augusta County, Virginia, before coming to Covington. He was the son of Dr. William Crawford and Rachel (McChesney) Crawford of Mount Sydney, Virginia. He was born September 12, 1879 and died February 18, 1935, at his home in Rosedale, Covington, Virginia. There were two daughters born to this union—Mary (Grigsby) Crawford, the eldest daughter of Lillian Carpenter Crawford and Edgar Allen Crawford, was born in Covington, Virginia, on January 25, 1905. She attended the Covington schools and was graduated from Covington High School in 1923. In the fall of that year, she entered Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, Virginia, and was graduated, cum laude, in June of 1927. She is a member of Delta Zeta, social sorority, and Pi Gamma Mu, honorary sorority. Returning to Covington, Mary taught English and History in Covington High School for the next three years. On June 28, 1930, she was married in the First Presbyterian Church, Covington, Virginia, to Frank Elliott Kinzer of Covington, formerly of Bedford, Virginia. Frank is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Lowry Kinzer of Bedford County, Virginia. He attended school in Bedford, graduated from Bedford High School, and entered Hampden-Sydney College, Hampden-Sydney, Virginia, in the fall of 1923. He was graduated from that college in June, 1927, with a B.S. degree. He is a member of Pi Kappa Alpha, social fraternity. After teaching school for one year, Frank established his own business, a general insurance agency, in Covington in 1928.



During the year 1949-1950, he served as president of the Virginia Association of Insurance Agents. Frank is a member of the Covington-Hot Springs Rotary Club and served that club as secretary for thirteen years, from 1936-1949. He is also a deacon in the First Presbyterian Church, and is active in all civic affairs of the community. He and Mary have a wide circle of friends, and are very popular among them. At the present time the Kinzers are living at 206 Rosedale Avenue, Covington, Virginia.

Dorothy (Steuben) Crawford, the younger daughter of Lillian Carpenter and Edgar Allen Crawford, was born in Covington, Virginia, on October 29, 1907. She attended the Covington schools, graduating from Covington High School in 1924. She entered Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, Virginia, where she took two years of college work. After leaving college at the end of her sophomore year, Dorothy taught school for one year in Beckley, West Virginia. She decided to give up this work and took up secretarial and office work. She held secretarial positions in Covington, Richmond, Virginia, and in Cleveland, Ohio. On October 1, 1938, she was married in the First Presbyterian Church, Cleveland, Ohio, to Robert Karl Volk of Cleveland, Ohio. Bob is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Karl Volk of Shaker Heights, Cleveland, Ohio. He attended school in Cleveland and graduated in engineering from the Case School of that city. The Volks have lived in Mentor, Ohio, Erie, Pennsylvania, and at the present time are living in Brockway, Pennsylvania, where Bob is resident engineer for the Brockway Glass Company. They have three children: Robert Karl Volk, Junior (Rusty), born December 23, 1940; Mary Crawford Volk (Molly), born October 10, 1943; and Stephen Carpenter Volk (Stevie), born March 11, 1947.

Dorothy, who as a girl, led such a happy, carefree existence has developed into quite a home-loving and devoted wife and mother. Her visits to Covington, with Bob, and her three attractive children present an unusual picture for her friends.

The youngest child of Samuel Steuben Carpenter and Mary Anne (Griffith) Carpenter is Edith Griffith Carpenter. She was born June 21, 1883, near Low Moor, Virginia. The early part of her life was spent in Covington, Virginia, and when grown she decided to take up nursing as her profession, and trained in and was graduated from the Memphis General Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. This profession she has followed all of her life.

While she was nursing in Spartanburg, South Carolina during World War I, she was married to E. Burke Wagner of Cleveland, Ohio and Buffalo, New York. She is now located in Cleveland, Ohio, still



following her mission of nursing the sick, rendering aid to the suffering, and performing acts of charity and mercy to all who come under her care. Her vocation is a noble one and her life has been one of usefulness.

Continuing the record of the children of Samuel Carpenter, Junior, and Martha (Hannah) Carpenter, we have come to the fifth child, Mary Catharine Carpenter, born May 4, 1844—died November 21, 1910. She married Dr. James Payne of Falling Spring Valley. Four sons and two daughters were born to them.

The sixth child born to Samuel Carpenter, Junior, and Martha (Hannah) Carpenter, was James McDowell Carpenter, nicknamed "Tobe," born September 4, 1846. He enrolled in Carpenter's Battery with sixty-three other recruits and served in all their engagements till he was wounded and suffered the loss of a leg, (supposed to have been near Winchester, Virginia). He was not able to return to active service, but lived at Fort Carpenter until the time of his death, December 15, 1865.

The seventh child of Samuel Carpenter, Junior, and Martha (Hannah) Carpenter, was Charles Carroll Carpenter, born June 4, 1849. He grew to young manhood at Fort Carpenter, and was too young to enter the service. On October 18, 1876, he married Lillian May Griffith, a sister of the wife of Samuel Steuben Carpenter. To this marriage were born two daughters—Cora Carpenter who married Mr. O. V. Marks, (engaged in Y. M. C. A. work at Clifton Forge, Virginia). When Cora died a year after her marriage, Mr. Marks located in Roanoke, Virginia. The other daughter, Mary Belle Carpenter, married Charles Guertler. Both are now deceased. Charles Carroll Carpenter died August 1, 1885.

The eighth child born to Samuel Carpenter, Junior, and Martha (Hannah) Carpenter, was George Munford Carpenter, born October 15, 1851. He spent most of his life in and around Covington, Virginia. He never married, and died in the home of his nephew, Joseph H. Carpenter, Senior, on April 10, 1925. He was a member of the Covington Baptist Church, also a member of the Masonic Lodge and a Shriner, belonging to Acca Temple, Richmond, Virginia.

The ninth child of Samuel Carpenter, Junior, and Martha (Hannah) Carpenter, was William Chambers Carpenter, born March 19, 1854. He only lived twelve years and these were spent at Fort Carpenter. He died June 30, 1866.



## CHAPTER XVIII

# Joseph H. Carpenter

THE second son born to Samuel Steuben Carpenter and Mary Anne (Griffith) Carpenter was Joseph H. Carpenter. He properly, should be styled Joseph H. Carpenter II, since he is in direct line from the pioneer Joseph Carpenter, who should have been Joseph Carpenter I; but, it's too late to re-arrange what was neglected so many years ago. He is known to his friends and acquaintances as Joseph H. Carpenter, Senior, and by that name he shall go.

He was born near Falling Spring, Virginia, on a farm known as the Smith farm, a mile or two below his maternal ancestor's home, on August 28, 1867. Soon after his birth his parents moved to a part of the Griffith Homestead, and after living there a few years, the family moved to Fort Carpenter. Because of his grandmother Carpenter's death, his mother assumed the housekeeping there. They lived there for nine or ten years until Fort Carpenter changed hands.

After this change, the Carpenter family moved to Covington, Virginia, to the home, afterwards the E. M. Nettleton residence. Then the family moved to Low Moor, Virginia, where Joe's father was appointed Postmaster, during President Grover Cleveland's administration. When quite a young man Joseph H. Carpenter went with his uncle, Captain John Carpenter, to what is now Bluefield, West Virginia, where he was engaged in the construction of the Norfolk and Western Railroad from Radford, Virginia, to Pocahontas, Virginia. When that work was finished he was employed by the Low Moor Iron Company, a concern with which he was connected, off and on for fourteen years. Later he was with Bowling, Spotts and Company of Staunton, Virginia, and Davenport and Morris of Richmond, Virginia—both Wholesale Grocery Companies.

With his Uncle, Captain John Carpenter, he went into Railroad Construction work again. This time the work was on a project in Jamaica, West Indies. There they built a railroad across the Island from Port Antonio to Kingston.

On September the 29th, 1897, he was married, in the Old Stone Church, Lewisburg, West Virginia, to Mary Evelyn Harlow, daughter of Colonel Benjamin Franklin Harlow and the late Henrietta Clay Renick Harlow. The first year of their married life was spent in Charleston, West Virginia. The following spring, Mr. Carpenter accepted a position as Superintendent of the Empire Steel and Iron Company's mines at Huddleston, Virginia. Here their first child, Mary Harlow Carpenter, was born on May the 14th, 1899. From Huddle-



ston, he and his family moved to Bessemer, Alabama, near Birmingham; there he was manager of the United States Cast Iron Pipe and Foundry Company. In 1902 he returned to Virginia because of ill health, having contracted malaria in the deep South. He was again associated with the Low Moor Iron Company as Superintendent of Mines.

In 1910 he, with Robert Parrish and William McD. McAllister, went into the Covington Wholesale Grocery business, which business he managed until poor health made it necessary for him to retire December, 1946.

During his life in Covington he has served as an active member of the Covington Chamber of Commerce, a Director in the Covington National Bank—as a Mason, he is Past Master of the Covington Masonic Lodge, belongs to the order of Knights Templar and holds a membership in Acca Temple Shrine, Richmond, Virginia. He is also Past President and charter member of the Covington-Hot Springs Rotary Club. Mr. Carpenter is an Elder in the First Presbyterian Church, Covington, Virginia, in which he, his wife and children hold membership.

The other children, in addition to Mary Harlow Carpenter, born to Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter are Evelyn Carpenter, born at Dolly Ann Mines, Virginia June 21, 1903—Elizabeth Carpenter, also born at Dolly Ann Mines, Virginia, May 23, 1905, and a son, Joseph Hannah Carpenter, born at Jordan Mines, Virginia, May 25, 1908.

I will give a brief outline of the lives of these children, in the order in which they were born.

Mary Harlow Carpenter attended the graded and high schools of Covington, and after her graduation there pursued her studies at Mary Baldwin Seminary, (now Mary Baldwin College). She majored in vocal and violin music, and received a medal for "Excellence in Voice," June 1917-18 and in 1918-19 was awarded the "First Honor" medal in voice.

She taught in the Jeter graded school three years. On December 20, 1922, in the First Presbyterian Church, Covington, Virginia, she was married to H. Dewey Vance of Cincinnati, Ohio. At the time of their marriage, Mr. Vance was Western Sales Manager for the Amherst Coal Company with offices in Cincinnati. On July 3, 1923, they moved to Covington, Virginia, where Mr. Vance entered the Wholesale Grocery business, as Vice-President and Assistant Manager of the Covington Grocery Company. When Mr. J. H. Carpenter retired, he was made President and Manager of that Company. Mr. Vance also served as



President of the Covington Chamber of Commerce and is a Past President of the Covington-Hot Springs Rotary Club.

In 1937 he became Distributor of Gulf Oil Company's products and in May, 1938, he was appointed Dealer of the Chevrolet Automobiles. The Alleghany Chevrolet Corporation was formed with Mr. H. D. Vance as President, J. H. Carpenter, Senior, as Vice-President and R. C. Mountcastle as Secretary-Treasurer.

Two daughters were born to Mr. Vance and Mary (Carpenter) Vance. Mary Evelyn Vance, born December 30, 1923, who also attended the Covington schools and after graduating in High School finished her education at Mary Baldwin College, majoring in Art. Her early interest in Art was awakened through the *Richmond Times Dispatch* Children's Club, to which she was a regular contributor at the age of eleven.

The following was taken from the *Staunton News Leader*—May 9, 1944—at the time of her graduation at Mary Baldwin College:

"The Senior Art Exhibit of Miss Mary Evelyn Vance, Covington, Virginia, which opened in Mary Baldwin College Art Building on Wednesday afternoon, with a tea, to which the public was invited, will remain on display through May 10th, and is attracting much attention from the friends of this talented young artist. The group of oils which Miss Vance has produced in the past three years, is of especial interest.

The three of flower subjects show growing understanding of design, the most recent "Cyclamen," is strongest in rhythmic organization. "Dogwood" and "Boquet," give expression to the fragile charm of the subject matter.

"Spring in Staunton," a landscape painted by Miss Vance during her sophomore year emphasizes the pattern in blossoming fruit trees, hemlock boughs and a shingled roof. It is a painting filled with a promise of future achievement, but already interesting in decorative and formal qualities.

Miss Vance has studied Art throughout her four years at Mary Baldwin. As a junior, Miss Vance was Art Editor of the *Blue Stocking*, the Annual which won an honor rating from the National Scholastic Press Association."

This "one-man" show reveals that she has been equally as interested in problems of still-life and landscape, as well as in those of portraits, for in College her portraits have been popular with fellow students so that her work is represented in a number of "private collections."

On October 14, 1944, Mary Evelyn Vance and Dr. Rufus Kite Allison of Charlotte, North Carolina, were married. Dr. Allison is



the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Johnston Allison of 304 Queens Road, Charlotte. He was graduated, cum laude, from Davidson College in 1940, where he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha social fraternity. After finishing at Davidson he did graduate work in Chemistry at the University of Virginia, where he is a member of Alpha Chi Sigma professional Chemical fraternity, and Sigma Xi National honorary Scientific fraternity. Dr. Allison received his Doctor of Philosophy degree in Chemistry on the eve of his marriage.

Dr. and Mrs. Allison lived in Akron, Ohio, the first year of their marriage, where Dr. Allison was a Research Chemist in B. F. Goodrich Company, research division. They now live in Birmingham, Alabama, where Dr. Allison is a Research Chemist with the Southern Research Institute there.

They have a little daughter, born August 2, 1947, who bears her mother's name, Mary Evelyn (Lynn).

The younger daughter of H. Dewey Vance and Mary (Carpenter) Vance is Elizabeth Traynham (Tray) Vance, who was born November 10, 1926. Tray attended the Covington schools and graduated in high school. Following the course of her mother and sister, she finished her education at Mary Baldwin College, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Psychology.

A little "write-up" in the 1947, Mary Baldwin College Annual, *The Blue Stocking*, has this to say about Elizabeth Traynham:

"What was it the costume man for Fancy Dress said about "Tray" when presented with those tell-tale dimensions, we'd like to know? Whatever it was, it must have had something to do with *why* she was Class Marshal her Junior year and Chief Marshal her Senior year, though he couldn't know about the friendly smile and willing ear she lends to any gathering, whether hen session, or a big party. Somehow, along the line, this lady of charm was not behind the door when the grey matter was served, nor was she too shy to have some! In her senior year she was business manager of the *Miscellany* and a member of the International Relations Club. To finish a well-rounded College career, she was attendant to the May Queen."

Tray has taught for three years in the Jeter graded school.

On December 15, 1948, she was married to William Fulton Good of New York, N. Y., and Quebec, Canada. He is the son of the late William Pelton Good and Edith McClive Good. Mr. Good was a citizen of the United States and Mrs. Good a Canadian. The son, William Fulton, "Bill," was born in Quebec City, Province of Quebec, and spent his early years there, in New Jersey, and in New York.



He returned to Quebec and attended Ridley College School, a prep school, Ontario, Canada. Later, following in his father's footsteps, he entered Princeton University, where he was a member of the Key and Seal Club. He was graduated June, 1947, receiving his B.A. degree in Chemistry.

During World War II, Bill served four years in the Army, and was a First Lieutenant. The Goods live in Covington, Virginia, at No. 80 Monroe Street. Bill is employed, as a chemist, in the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Mill. He came to Covington a stranger, but he is one no longer. He has a host of friends who feel that he was "born and bred" in old Virginia!

This little story of Bill and Tray would not be complete without mentioning Tray's skill with the knitting needles and crochet hook. She fashions many unusual patterns and articles "while she waits"—Her socks and sweaters are unusual in appearance and wonderful to wear! But her crowning piece of art is displayed in her Luncheon Sets, which have to be seen to be appreciated, and in the words that described her sister Mary Evelyn's paintings, "her work is represented in a number of homes." In the beginning of this family history, the writer warned that it was not in the spirit of family pride that it was being compiled, but it was to preserve the truth for our generation and those who may come hereafter—so pardonable pride in Tray's handicraft will have to be overlooked.

The second daughter of Joseph H. Carpenter, Senior, and Evelyn (Harlow) Carpenter, is Evelyn Carpenter (Mountcastle). As has been stated elsewhere, she was born June 21, 1903. Soon thereafter the family moved to Covington, Virginia, where Evelyn attended the schools. After graduating in high school, she entered Mary Baldwin Seminary (now Mary Baldwin College). She graduated there, majoring in Music. In 1923, she received her diploma and "First Honor Medal" in Violin. After finishing her course at Mary Baldwin Seminary, she returned to Covington and taught in Jeter graded school for two years.

On May 22, 1925, she was married in the First Presbyterian Church, Covington, Virginia, to Russell Carey Mountcastle, son of the late Dorsey Eggleston and Norma (Edwards) Mountcastle. Carey was born August 3, 1903. He graduated in the Covington schools, attended the University of Virginia and Eastman's Business College, Poughkeepsie, New York.

Carey is a Past President of the Covington-Hot Springs Rotary Club and enjoys the distinction of having had perfect attendance at



RUSSELL CAREY MOUNTCASTLE II

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CABIN

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ENTRANCE TO  
FORT CARPENTER

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Rotary for twenty-three years. He is a member of the Alleghany Chevrolet Corporation, Covington, Virginia, and is Secretary-Treasurer of that Corporation.

Carey and Evelyn have one son, Russell Carey Mountcastle II, born September 6, 1935. Carey II is a student in the Covington schools, and is serving his third year as a patrol boy, for which service he and seven other boys from Alleghany County were given a week's training at the State Patrol Officer's Training Camp, at Kilmarnock, Virginia. Carey has also spent two summers at Camp Nimrod.

The third daughter of Joseph H. Carpenter, Senior, and Evelyn (Harlow) Carpenter, is Elizabeth Carpenter (McLear). She was born May 23, 1905, and attended the Covington schools and soon developed a taste for business. After finishing her Secretarial Course, she entered the employ of the Covington (Wholesale) Grocery Company, at Covington, Virginia. There she became a very necessary member of the office force.

On October 3, 1925, she and Leonard A. McLear, of Augusta County, were married. "Mac" is the son of the late E. L. McLear and Mrs. Virginia Pendleton McLear of Greenville, Virginia. He held a position in the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad office in Covington at the time of his marriage. In 1928 he went with the Bates Bag Mill, in charge of their office; he worked for them in various places: Covington, Menominee, Michigan, Toledo, Ohio and in New Orleans, Louisiana. In 1942, the Company, under a changed name, Taggart Bag Company, transferred "Mac" to Franklin, Virginia, where he was manager of the plant.

On March 1, 1948, the McLears went into business for themselves, with Mr. Carl Steinhardt of Franklin, Virginia, as their partner. The name of their firm is the Hunterdale Supply Company, with L. A. McLear, President, G. Carl Steinhardt, Vice-President and Elizabeth C. McLear, Secretary-Treasurer.

On October 2, 1928, a daughter was born to the McLears. Honoring the paternal grandfather, she bears his name—Josephine Hannah. She is better known as "Johan." She attended the public school in New Orleans, and continued her studies in the high school in Franklin, Virginia. After graduating there, she attended Gulf Park College, Gulfport, Mississippi. She now holds a position, as Secretary to the Purchasing Agent for the Camp Manufacturing Company, Franklin, Virginia.

The youngest child of Joseph H. Carpenter, Senior, and Evelyn (Harlow) Carpenter is Joseph H. Carpenter II. Joe was born May



25, 1908. He attended the public school of Covington, Virginia, and Augusta Military Academy of Fort Defiance, Virginia, five years where he graduated as Captain of his Company. He then attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

In 1932 he joined the McLeers in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he was employed by the St. Regis Bag Company. He remained there seven years then returned to Virginia. On June 13, 1941, he was married to Betty Gordon Robinson, of Clifton Forge, Virginia. She is the daughter of R. E. Robinson and Flora Snead Robinson. The Robinsons now live at "Magnolia Hill," Eagle Rock, Virginia, where open house is kept the year round.

On September 30, 1942, a son was born to the Joe Carpenters—Joseph Hannah Carpenter III.

On October 7, 1945, a daughter, Flora Virginia, made her appearance at Fort Carpenter. Three years later May 10, 1948, Robert Edward Carpenter joined the family group.

When World War II began Joe II volunteered for active duty, entering the service at Camp Tyson, Tennessee, as a Second Lieutenant in the Coast Artillery Corps. Upon completion of a course in aerostatics, he was assigned to 308th Barrage Balloon Battalion, Western Defense Command, Seattle, Washington, from February, 1943 to September, 1943. He served as a Training Officer at Fort Custer, Michigan, from September, 1943 to December, 1943. He was then transferred from the Coast Artillery Corps to Transportation Corps, and was ordered to New Orleans Port of Embarkation, where he was assigned to the Ship's Complement Section from December, 1943 to December, 1944. He served as assistant Superintendent and later as Superintendent of the Troop Movement Branch, New Orleans Port of Embarkation from December, 1944 to September, 1945. Then he was assigned to Los Angeles Port of Embarkation from September, 1945 to February, 1946. He was honorably discharged from Fort MacArthur, California, May 1, 1946.

Lieutenant Carpenter was promoted to rank of Captain while stationed in New Orleans, Louisiana. As a Troop Movement Officer, with the New Orleans Port of Embarkation, he made plans, directed and supervised the movement of all incoming and outgoing troops for the New Orleans Port of Embarkation.

As Cargo Security Officer, he supervised the training and assignments of 177 Cargo Security Officers, while in charge of the Cargo Security Section. He also served seven months and fifteen days in





CAPTAIN  
JOSEPH HANNAH CARPENTER II

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FUTURE CARPENTERS OF FORT CARPENTER

JOSEPH HANNAH CARPENTER III

*"Jodie"*

FLORA VIRGINIA CARPENTER

*"Flodie"*

ROBERT EDWARD CARPENTER

*"Robbie"*

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Foreign Service, on duty with "Ship's Complement, New Orleans Port of Embarkation," New Orleans, Louisiana.

In Captain J. H. Carpenter's certificate of service, given him at Separation Center, Fort MacArthur, California, May 1, 1946, is this statement, "He honorably served in active Federal service in the Army of the United States from August, 1942 to May 1, 1946."

His decorations and citations are: The American Theater Service Medal—The Asiatic Pacific Theater Service Medal—and World War II Victory Medal.

Joe with Betty and their three children live at Fort Carpenter in a cabin built of the logs which were in the original cabin of the first settlers of Fort Carpenter, in 1746. These logs were preserved under weather boarding in subsequent buildings occupied by the generations of Carpenters. This cabin is ceiled throughout with knotted pine and it is modern in every way on its interior.



## CHAPTER XIX

# Fort Carpenter Then and Now

**F**ORT CARPENTER is one of the most beautiful, as well as one of the most interesting from a historical standpoint, of the many attractive homes in this part of Virginia.

The original Carpenter Stockade-Fort "Old Fort Carpenter," stood on a high bank with a steep front, at the mouth of Potts' Creek, an ideal spot for a Fort, as it was almost inaccessible except in times of very low water. Specimens of stone, arrowheads and other Indian implements of War found here, show that it had once been the village of aboriginal tribes.

The long survey of 782 acres granted to the pioneer, Joseph Carpenter, started near Covington and extended down the river including the bend in the river near the mouth of Potts' Creek. This grant took in the bottom land on both sides of the railroad at Mallow.

The Indian raid near Fort Carpenter, which was so destructive, occurred in 1750. In this raid nine people were killed. Nicholas Carpenter, at that time, of White Sulphur Springs, Virginia, was bringing his older children to Fort Carpenter, for safety, (thirty miles away), expecting to go back for his wife and youngest child. He reached the Fort, but in the defense of it he was killed. The five children who were slain in this raid, may have been the children Nicholas was bringing to safety. Joseph Carpenter, with other relatives, was among the captives, but escaped.

The home now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Carpenter, Senior, (1949), was sold during Colonel Samuel Carpenter's lifetime to Mr. Andrew Fudge, who gave it to his daughter, Mrs. William A. Gilliam, who later sold it to the Allen Childs' family.

In 1928, the present owner, J. H. Carpenter, Senior, with his sons-in-law, Dewey Vance and Carey Mountcastle, bought the original home-site from the Childs family at public auction. Here Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Vance have built homes; the land upon which Mr. Mountcastle will build later lies between these two homesteads.

The trees planted by the Carpenter ancestors, are now the principal attraction and comfort of this lovely home. All around the sloping grounds are immense sycamores and sugar maples, which the years have developed into trees of great height and beauty.

In the spring both white and pink dogwood make the grounds a dreamland of beauty, and from early spring till the fall of the year there are lovely flowers to make the place more attractive. There are the earliest spring flowers, tulips, crocus, daffodils and hyacinths in borders, the bright yellow forsythia, the snow-white mock orange, huge bushes of japonica and the lavender lilac, the rock lilies (to be more proper, "the yuccas"), the bright yellow and orange day-lilies. Each in its own time gives beauty and fragrance all around.

At the foot of the hill, there is a little stream, which flows gently around the place and adds a note of coolness on a warm summer day.

The entrance to Fort Carpenter is marked by a stone wall and two stone pillars, and the home is reached by a winding driveway, which also extends to the Mountcastle and Vance property which lies beyond.

A productive vegetable garden and a small grape vineyard is in the rear of the grounds. The place lacks nothing in making it an ideal home.

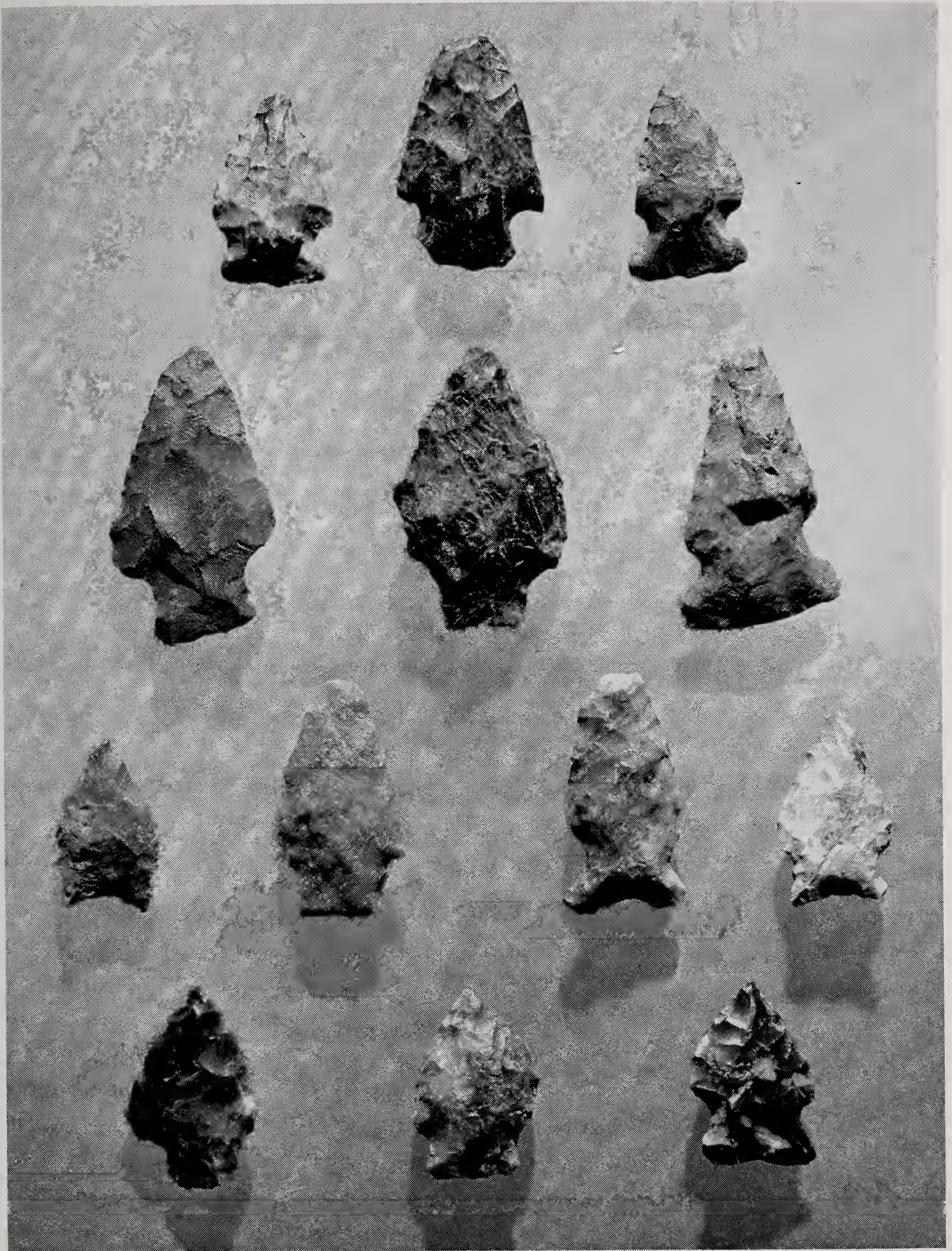
In looking back on things past, we must realize that it is a long cry from the days when our forefathers came to old Virginia to establish themselves and make homes. When we review all the difficulties through which they passed, our hearts overflow with gratitude and admiration, and when we think of their courage and daring, we are filled with shame at our own weakness and our namby-pamby ways. In the words of a former Presbyterian minister, of our church, in speaking of "Ancestors," "It's not a question of whether we are proud of them, but rather if they could see and know us would they be proud of us?"

It has been over two hundred years since the establishment of this home, and though for a few years it has been owned by outsiders, it seems only right that it should again be the property of the descendants of its real founders, who prize it not only for its historical value and associations, but love it for its charm and beauty.









ARROWHEADS

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